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COLOURFUL STORY OF VICTORIOUS BRITISH INVASION OF LIBYA

CAIRO, DEC. 17. (REUTER).—BRITISH INFANTRY WERE TO-DAY PREPARING TO PARTICIPATE IN A BIG PUSH ACROSS THE FRONTIER INTO LIBYA. THEY WERE WEARY BUT TRIUMPHANT WHEN THEY OCCUPIED SOLLUM YESTERDAY AFTER DAYS OF CHASING THE ITALIANS OUT OF EGYPTIAN TERRITORY.

7-HOUR RAID ON NAZI TOWNS

Destructive Work By R.A.F.

LONDON, Dec. 17 (UP).—The Air Ministry announced this evening that long-range British bombers for seven hours last night, made raids on Mannheim and Ludwigshafen, which is a suburb of Mannheim, where an aniline dye factory, one of the largest in Germany, was set afire.

BARDIA BLASTED

R.A.F. Ranges Far Into Libya

CAIRO, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—All enemy aerodromes between Tobruk and Bardia in the Western Desert of Egypt were heavily raided by R.A.F. bombers on Monday, states a communique from the R.A.F. Middle East Headquarters.

Fighter planes maintained constant offensive patrols throughout the day. Bardia suffered a further intensive raid on Monday night in excellent weather. Altogether more than 12 tons of bombs fell on barracks, military buildings and railways. One particularly fierce blaze as well as other fires were started. Tobruk, Bomba, Bama, El Adem, El Gubbi and El Gazala were attacked heavily and damaged.

Italian Air Losses
During an offensive patrol, R.A.F. fighters shot down eight Italian aircraft and possibly a further two. Another Italian aircraft was destroyed while landing and a general purpose plane was shot down. These enemy losses are additional to the 15 Italian aircraft captured near Sollum.

Durazzo Also Bombed
CAIRO, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—The R.A.F. Middle East Headquarters announced that in Southern Albania, Durazzo was heavily raided despite bad weather. Heavy explosions were caused in the dock areas. Again British aircraft returned safely.

East Africa
CAIRO, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—Gura and Asmara, in Italian East Africa, were raided during the night of Dec. 17. TURN to Back Page, Column 7

Sollum is only a tiny port surrounded by a few white houses. Above the port is Upper Sollum, the main feature of which is the large barracks belonging to the Egyptian Army but long ago blown to pieces by British bombardments while the Italians were in occupation.

With a little group of British correspondents and one American, I spent the last few days watching the final stages of our assault on Sollum, the tactics for which were just as well thought out as those at other points in the present campaign.

Sollum was first imperilled a week ago when a British armoured division, after dealing with a whole series of other objectives, came smashing through Bugbug from Sidi Barrani so quickly that the whole Catanzaro Division under General Giuseppe Amico, which had been happily en route to Sidi Barrani on normal relief duty believing the war to be miles away, was taken completely by surprise.

Majority Captured
The majority of its men were taken prisoner and nearly all its material was left strewn along the sides of the road. These British tanks swept on up Sollum while others were coming up across the escarpment from the interior. A hail of fire was poured into the defenders of Sollum by the British tanks while the R.A.F. continued incessant bombings. A slight check to the British forces occurred when some tanks became bogged in the salt fields outside Sollum but this did not seriously hamper our offensive operations. The British tanks dashed on to occupy the coastal territory beyond Bardia, 30 miles or more inside Libya.

While they did so, an infantry brigade moved up with instructions not to attack Sollum directly but to contain it, letting nobody escape. **Fort Charged, Taken**
By Sunday, the defenders of Sollum, alarmed at their precarious position, had moved up to the top of the escarpment, blowing up the road leading from lower to Upper Sollum.

The British infantry pressed in on Sollum despite fire from the escarpment and occupied Lower Sollum without heavy casualties by Monday morning, and by the same afternoon, TURN to Back Page, Column 3

INVASION PORTS ATTACKED

LONDON, Dec. 17 (UP).—Heavy explosions from the direction of the French coast shook the Dover area at 2 o'clock this afternoon. They are believed to have been caused by a daylight raid by the R.A.F. on the invasion ports. The explosions rumbled continuously and bright red flashes were seen through the sea mist.

More Libyan Forts Captured

CAIRO, Dec. 17 (UP).—A general headquarters communique, issued this evening, says that British forces on Monday captured the Libyan frontier forts of Musadi, Sidiomar and Shefferzen.

The communique adds: "Fighting continues in the Bardia area where our pressure on the enemy is steadily increasing, as new forces arrive. In the northern frontier district, the cessation of the rainy period has enabled us to re-commence the offensive, patrolling on a considerable scale. On the Sudan frontier the situation is unchanged."

Secure Fighting
CAIRO, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—Very severe fighting is raging round the Libyan port of Bardia, according to the latest reports received here to-night.

After battering their way across the desert, British advance mechanised units are carrying out a formidable attack on the perimeter defences of the port.

Advanced forces of British infantry are following up the mechanised units while lorry loads of stores and ammunition bring up the rear. "Rush" tactics were employed in the British attack on three frontier forts, whose capture was announced in to-day's British communique.

Unflagging Advance
British advanced mechanised units are continuing to advance towards Bardia. TURN to Back Page, Column 5

LATEST

AUSSIES IN ACTION IN WESTERN DESERT



Dominion troops, notably the Australians and New Zealanders are taking a prominent part in the British desert offensive which has carried our troops many miles into Libya. In these two official pictures taken recently we see an Australian convoy making its way through the sand dunes of the Western Desert, and below, an Australian battery of heavy artillery.

Britain In Arms Till Europe Is Freed

LONDON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—"The British Government could never accept any arrangement having the effect of perpetuating German domination of Europe and the British Government are resolutely determined to do all in their power to deliver the nations now under the heel of Germany from that yoke and restore their former independence and prosperity."

This statement was made by Lord Snell in the House of Lords to-day, replying to a request by Lord Noel-Buxton for a Government statement with regard to any suggestions purporting to be aimed at peace terms which had been made to Britain by the German Government since Italy's entry into the war.

Lord Snell recalled the statement by the late Lord Lytton on November 20 that during recent years Germany had frequently suggested that she would be happy to maintain good relations with Britain provided that Germany was given a free hand in Europe.

The British Government had never been prepared to discuss such an arrangement since it could only be at the expense of her former French ally. TURN to Back Page, Column 6

Woman Is Convicted Of Treachery

Capital Sentence

LONDON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—A woman was sentenced to death for treachery to-day at Winchester—the first of such sentences to be announced as passed on a woman since the outbreak of war.

She is Dorothy Pamela O'Grady, 42 years old. The charges on which she was found guilty were that in the Isle of Wight she made a plan likely to assist the military operations of the enemy and that with the object of helping the enemy, she cut a military telephone wire. The case was heard in camera and the Court was open to the public only at the pronouncement of sentence. O'Grady, a short, dark, bespectacled woman, showed no emotion when the judge passed sentence.

FINANCIAL AID IS NECESSARY

Britain Appeals To U.S.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (UP).—The Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Henry Morgenthau, told the House Appropriations sub-committee to-day that British Treasury officials had informed him that Britain cannot order additional war supplies from the United States unless financial aid is assured.

Speed Becomes Urgent
WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—The urgent need of speeding up American war production and granting Britain increasing and more rapid aid have become paramount questions in Washington. President Roosevelt, back at the White House after his return from his West Indies tour, was greeted by newspaper headlines reflecting the grave concern over the position and stressing the "terrible urgency of the situation."

Must Have Money
The latest development to-day was reported to be a statement by Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury, that Britain must have money. TURN to Back Page, Column 4

Vichy Hopes Italy May Lighten Peace Terms

LONDON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—Though internal policy is believed to be the chief cause of M. Laval's dismissal, reports from Vichy fail entirely to clarify the reasons.

It is probable, however, that Laval's efforts to make Marshal Pétain a pillar of his pro-German policy encountered increasingly stubborn resistance, which was fortified by the situation in the Mediterranean. It is reported that Laval last week laid far-reaching proposals for internal reform before the Vichy Cabinet together with a new German peace offer, both of which were rejected.

Separate Negotiations
Nevertheless, Britain's Mediterranean successes have revived hopes among the group, of which Admiral Darlan is the leader, that a separate peace might be negotiated. TURN to Back Page, Column 5

Beaverbrook Warns Britain Of New Nazi Invasion Plans

LONDON, Dec. 17 (UP).—Lord Beaverbrook, Minister of Aircraft Production, in a broadcast to-day warned that the "enemy is making preparations for an invasion of Britain even before spring."

He said that invasion would be made by land and sea; but principally by air. He predicted that Britain would receive 20,000 planes from the United States during 1942 when, he declared, the famous 8,000 per month plan will be realized. Lord Beaverbrook revealed that American planes are coming to Britain in increasing flow. "Very many of them are fine types of fighting planes of excellent quality, some of them are equal to the best we produce here. For example, there is the Curtiss P-40. It is good for a straight war job. It flies easily and the engine is reliable. In performance and speed, it is the equivalent of the Spitfire, which is a very good plane."

He said that the output of aircraft and engines in Britain from August to November inclusive was double that of last year, despite the bombings. **Three-Legged Stool**
According to Reuter, Lord Beaverbrook declared that Hitler is content to keep the three-legged stool of Germany, Italy and Japan. TURN to Back Page, Column 5

See Back Page For Further Late News

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

25 words \$2.50
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FOR SALE.
THOROUGHbred Scottish terriers. Entire proceeds to the Bomber Fund. Can be seen anytime after Wednesday, December 18. At No. 1 Robinson Road—Mrs. Petro.

"HONGKONG AS REVEALED BY THE CAMERA" Second Edition. Over 60 excellent views of the Colony. Price \$1.50. Obtainable at Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Hongkong Travel Bureau or from the Publishers South China Morning Post, Ltd., Wyndham Street.



ENVOY—Alexander Kirk, former charge d'affaires in Berlin, who is being sent by President Roosevelt to relieve Ambassador William Phillips in Rome. Mr. Phillips is ill and desires to resign, according to report. Mr. Kirk formerly lived in Rome about 10 years.

RADIO

ZBW, 355 metres (845 k.c.) and 31.49 metres (9,520 kilo-cycles)

Father Ryan On "British Dramatists"

Broadcast by Z. B. W. on a Frequency of 845 k.c. and on Short Wave from 1-2.15 p.m. and 8-11 p.m. on 9.52 m.c.s. per second. 12.15 p.m. Short Service of Intercession.

12.30 Betty Driver (Vocal) and George Scott Woods' The Six Swingers.

1.00 Local Time Signal and Weather Report.

1.03 Billy Mayerl at the Piano.

1.15 Victor Silvester and His Ballroom Orchestra.

1.30 Reuter and Rugby Press, Weather Forecast and Announcements.

1.45 Dvorak—Quartet in E Flat Major, Op. 51.

1.50 Lerner String Quartet.

2.15 Close Down.

6.30 Closing Local Stock Quotations.

7.00 London Relay—The News.

7.15 London Relay—"Questions of the Hour."

7.30 London Relay—"The Lusitania Boy's Variety."

8.00 Local Time Signal, Weather Report and Announcements.

8.03 A Programme of Early English Music.

8.30 Studio—"British Dramatists" No. 4, Sheridan.

Talk by Father T. Ryan, S.J.

8.50 Songs by Dennis Noble (Bartons).

Famous Ballads by Frederick Weatherly.

9.00 London Relay—"The News and News Commentary."

9.30 London Relay—"Talk: To Talk of Many Things."

9.45 Musical Comedy Selections.

New Mayfair Orchestra.

10.10 Dance Music.

11.00 Close Down.

ONLY

6

Shopping Days

To

CHRISTMAS

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

M.V. "HOEGH TRANSPORTER"

On instructions from the Underwriters, Tenders are invited for the Single Screw Motor Vessel "HOEGH TRANSPORTER" as she lies submerged in her damaged condition in Singapore Roads.

The vessel is of the Shelter Deck type designed for a carrying capacity of 9,000 tons and fitted with Diesel Machinery.

A large part of the cargo has been removed from the vessel. Tenders should be forwarded to the undersigned not later than 31st. December, 1940, who will supply any further information available.

The highest, or any, tender may not necessarily be accepted.

ITCHIE & BISSET,
Union Building,
Singapore.

NOTICE

DEFENCE REGULATIONS 1940

The following rates will be charged for mailing single copies of the following newspapers abroad:—

South China Morning Post
China and Macao
16 cents per copy

British Empire and Foreign
25 cents per copy

The Hongkong Telegraph
China and Macao
14 cents per copy

16 cents Saturdays
British and Foreign
20 cents per copy

25 cents Saturdays.

FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

What to do to help a child

Anyone knowing of a child who has been assaulted, neglected, or ill-treated in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to health, or knowing of a parent who is seeking advice on any matter concerning a child, would be doing an act of kindness by communicating at once with—

The Hon. General Secretary, H.K.S.P.C., Old City Hall.

The Inspector, 40, Pokfulam Road, at floor.

The Inspector, 82, Stone Nullah Lane, 2nd. Floor.

The Inspector, 12, Sai Yeung Choi St., Kowloon.

The Inspector, 52, Argyle St., Kowloon.

All further steps will be taken, and expenses borne, by the Society.

The informant's name will be kept strictly private, except in cases where malice is proved.

LICENCES REFUSED

Three applications for licences had been refused by the Urban Council, it was stated by the Chairman, the Hon. Mr. W. J. Carrie, at the fortnightly meeting yesterday.

The applications were for a restaurant licence for 408 Shinghai Street, ground floor, a laundry licence for 110 Electric Road, ground floor, and a milk shop for 49 Sing Wo Road, ground floor.

The Chairman announced that as he was going on short leave he would not be present at the next meeting.

Licences granted by the Council between December 3 and December 10 totalled seven, comprising five for swine, one for a food shop and one for an eating house.

Those present at the meeting were the Hon. Mr. W. J. Carrie (Chairman), Dr. N. C. Macleod (Vice-Chairman), the Hon. Mr. H. J. Pearce, the Hon. Mr. R. A. C. North, the Hon. Mr. C. G. Perdue, Mr. F. C. Hall, Mr. L. C. Bellamy, Mr. A. C. Arculli, Mr. B. Wong Tape, Mr. Tang Shu-kin, Dr. A. M. Rodrigues, Mr. L. Tse-fong, Mr. C. J. Roe (Secretary) and Mr. Im Ping-keung (Assistant Secretary).

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PRINCE IS 5—Despite the menace of Hitler's airmen, Prince Edward celebrates his fifth birthday, with his parents, the Duke and Duchess of Kent, and sister, Princess Alexandra.

"Dead-Eye Dick" Sank 2 U-Boats In 2 Days

AN R A F pilot sank two Italian submarines in two days. He is Acting Flight-Lieut. William Weir Campbell, and his exploits have won him the D.F.C.

He has also gained a nickname. His colleagues now call him "Dead-Eye Dick." He destroyed the two submarines with bombs and attacked another with machine-gun fire, says the Air Ministry News Service.

The first was sunk by dive-bombing.

There were two bursts abaft the conning-tower, and immediately the nose of the submarine rose sharply out of the water. The hull slid back vertically to the bottom.

Air bubbles and oil at once appeared on the sea.

The tail gunner reported seeing debris floating in the area for some time after the bombs had burst.

Next day the same flying-boat sighted an Italian submarine on the surface. Again "Dead-Eye Dick" dived to attack. He scored direct hits beside the conning-tower.

Saved Four

Although in the open sea, and in the face of an approaching storm, Flight-Lieut. Campbell, alighted, taxied his flying boat among the wreckage and saved four of the submarine's crew.

After they were safely aboard and a final search had been made, the pilot resumed his patrol and handed over the prisoners at the end of the day.

On the return journey to the base, he sighted yet another submarine on the surface.

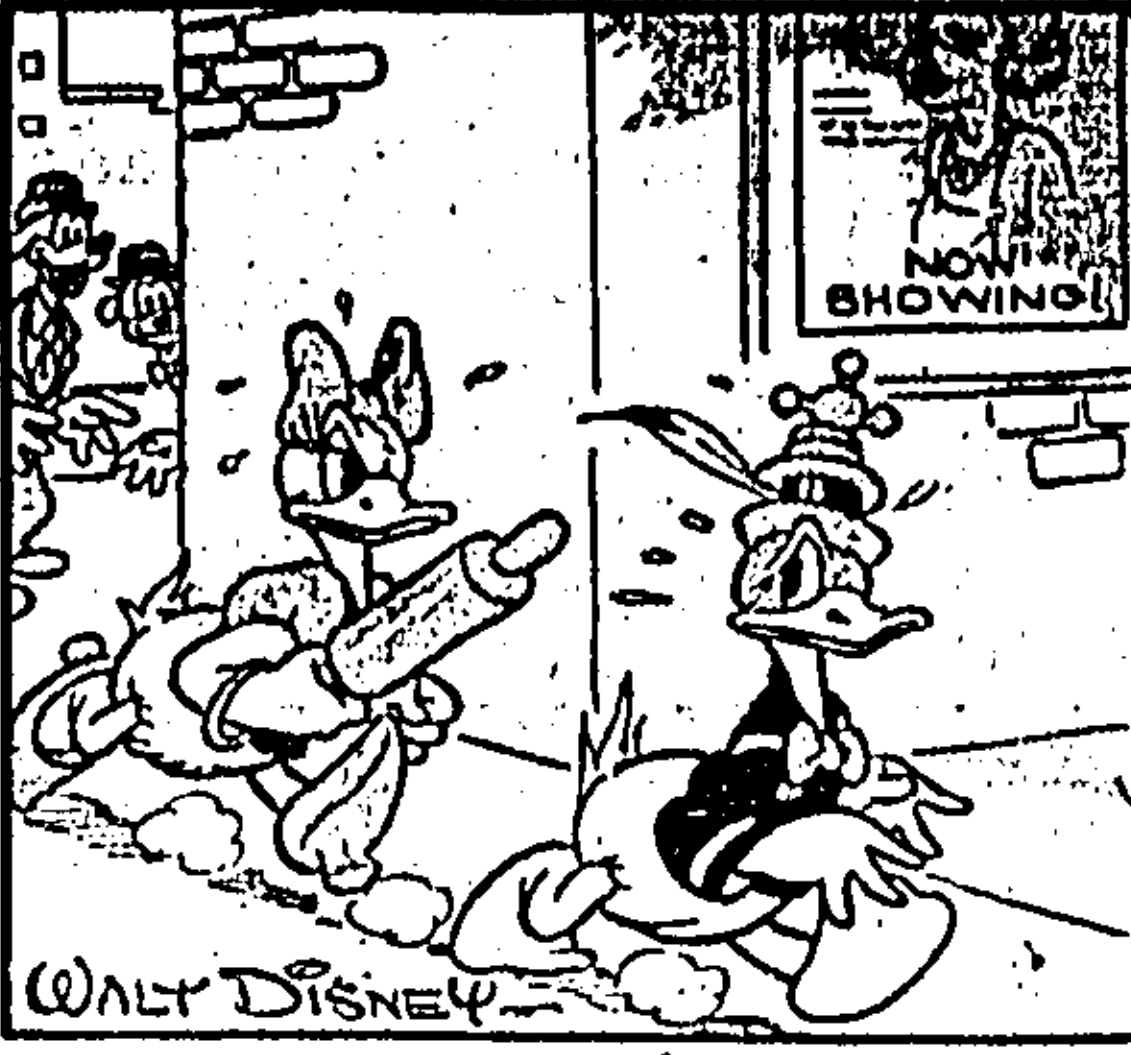
This he machine-gunned, as he had no bombs left. After the second attack the submarine crash-dived.

Great Improvement

Speaking of plane parts, the importance of our imports of which is not always realised by the layman, Mr. James said that a great improvement in deliveries had recently taken place.

"Shipments of aluminium tubes," he said, "are now at a substantial rate, equal to about half of Britain's total output."

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Tiger Standish, ace of British secret agents, meets

THERE WAS THE SOUND OF A SNORT. "But the devil of it is," complained Sir Barker Bellamy, bitterly, "that I am being held directly responsible. As though my Department had to act as nursemaid for every child of a child who wants its bottom smacked!"

Tiger Standish, who had dropped in to make his daily report, looked at his superior officer, Y.I., that branch of British Intelligence which was concentrating on counter-espionage work, was being kept pretty busy these days, but he felt a certain amount of sympathy for Bellamy as the latter poured out his complaint. Later, he was due to transfer that sympathy from his superior to himself—but at the moment this knowledge was mercifully hidden from him.

So it was that he lightly put the question: "What are you bell-aching about now, you old buzzard?"

Bellamy sighed as though in all the world he could not find an understanding soul.

"You've heard of Blanca Tedworth, I suppose?" his tone now sardonic.

"Well, I'm not quite blind in both eyes yet—you mean the wench who was pulling up to the Nazi bosses until quite recently."

"That's the one. She's the daughter of Lord Bevington. He's strong as a wild colt. Got smitten with this Hitler-Youth bug and was willing to throw up everything, including her nationality, in order to lend a hand in the movement which was to regenerate the world. Excuse me for a moment while I spit."

Having done this office, Bellamy continued: "There's nothing very much wrong with the girl fundamentally, I suppose—but, as I say, she ought to have had her bottom smacked at intervals from the age of seven upwards. That would have taught her sense. She's nineteen now, by the way. As you know, she's only just been able to get out of Germany; the Nazi bosses, including Himmler, Chief of the Gestapo, thought she might have a dangerous influence on her former pal, whose name need not be mentioned, and so, at the outbreak of war, they played safe and popped her into a concentration camp. Not one of the worst ones, it's true, but sufficiently bad to cure the fair Blanca of her former besotted infatuation. Last week, owing to the influence of the American Embassy in Berlin (who, of course, are looking after British affairs now) she was released. The authorities, after the hillyhoo tripe of the Mitford girl, were not going to take any chances; consequently there were no reporters, no news-reel operators, and no publicity whatsoever when Blanca Tedworth landed in Folkestone four days ago."

Standish, putting up a huge hand to his mouth, did his best to hide a yawn.

"How many more instalments, B?" he enquired.

"Only two—and they're both very short. The first is that the girl has disappeared, and the second is that you've damned well got to find her."

Tiger bounded up from his chair.

"Well, that's a nice thing to say!" he cried indignantly. "Haven't you got anything better to do than to send me scouting round after a child?"

Bellamy took his time to light the short, black pipe which he had just filled with evil-looking plug tobacco.

"I thought you'd say that," he replied amiably, "but if it's any consolation to you to know it, this is a very important job of work."

"It's a job for the police!"

"No," he was uncompromisingly informed, "it's a job for Y.I. And you're the man to do it—there's no one better."

Tiger began to fume afresh.

"Where do we come into it?" he retorted.

"Principally because our agent, Y.27, was able to see the Tedworth girl just after she crossed the German frontier, and being hard-pressed, gave her the plans of an entirely new raiding bomber about which the Nazis do not want anything known. You remember that business over Belgium the other day."

"You mean when a German plane shot down two Belgian fighters?"

Bellamy nodded.

"Yes. Those fighters were shot down because the pilot had had the strictest instructions that in no circumstances whatever was he to allow his machine to be examined by anybody outside Germany—not even by a neutral."

Tiger sat down again and filled his own pipe. This business was becoming more interesting; it was just like Bellamy to hide the truth as long as possible. One result, he supposed, of having spent over thirty years in Intelligence.

"Did she know the plans?" he asked.

This time Bellamy shook his head.

"When I said just now that she landed at Folkestone, it was more or less a figure of speech. I should have said she was supposed to land at Folkestone. The truth—or what at the present time must pass for the truth is that when her father, Lord Bevington, went to meet her at the landing-stage, he found no one amongst the passengers who corresponded in the slightest degree to his daughter."

Tiger whistled.

"Then—?"

"Who can say what happened?" Bellamy shrugged his shoulders like a weary Titan who finds the weight of his labours intolerable; "all we do know is that a girl resembling Blanca Tedworth got on the boat at Calais . . . It's up to you to discover the rest, my boy."

"I'm not Sherlock Holmes."

"And I'm certainly not Watson," rejoined his superior, and turned to the papers on his desk.

The certainty was not good enough, and Standish voiced his disgust.

"She's probably at the bottom of the Channel—what's the good of sending me off on a wild-goose chase like this? And where the hell do I start, anyway?"

Whereupon Bellamy became as mysterious as though he were playing himself in a sensational film. Going first of all to the door, as though suspecting a possible eavesdropper, he closed the heavy mahogany again, and returned to his seat.

After that, he spoke in a whisper for a few more minutes. At the end of that time, Tiger Standish got up and knocked the ashes out of his pipe.

"It looks like one chance in a million," he summed up.

"It's the one chance in a million that sometimes comes off, my boy," was the answer he received.

THE COUNTESS OF MITTENDEN HAD LEFT LONDON

(Who wants to be blown to bits by those dreadful bombs? Now I do hate that man Hitler!) and was residing in a country seat, Nevern Castle, in the county of Sussex.

The move had had its disadvantages. The staff, for instance, whilst it was extremely difficult to

THE LADY with the GAUDY PAST

get good servants during wartime in London, it was still more difficult to procure them in the country. The ordinary woman might have managed, but the Countess had her own fixed, and somewhat peculiar, ideas about the servant question: she would employ no one on the male side who was not both young and good-looking. This determination of hers added considerably, of course, to the difficulties of the present situation.

What was more, Nevern Castle was situated in a very lonely part of what has frequently been described as the most delectable county in England. The castle, which dated back to the early 14th century, was not, strictly speaking, built on Sussex land at all; it had been erected, according to history, by a direct descendant of William the Conqueror, who had perched his new home on the very edge of the Sussex cliffs. But the intervening centuries, with the assistance of the sea, had caused serious erosions to take place. With this result: between the mainland and the castle keep, there was now a stretch of over 200 yards of sea, which, for several months in the year, tossed and foamed, shrieked and shivered, banged and battered against both the cliffs on the mainland and those which surrounded the present abode of the Countess of Mittenenden.

The man who was bound for Nevern Castle, there to take up the position of new butler, sat upright in the small boat which acted as ferry. The rustic who propelled the oars looked at him with a kind of shrewd, quizzical interest.

"I 'opes as 'ow you'll like it there, m'aster," he vouchsafed; "it'll be all right if you keeps on the right side of 'er ladyship. Lenstways," with a snigger, that might have been the cloak for some secretly amusing thought, "that's what they do say round about 'ere."

By
Sidney Horler

"Mind your own business," was the stiffly-uttered comment.

"I was only givin' ye a bit of advice, m'aster," went on the rustic; "but seeing that his passenger was in no mood for further converse, he concentrated on his oarsmanship and, within a few moments, brought his boat to the castle landing-place.

A few minutes later, John Giles was interviewing his new mistress. The Countess of Mittenenden was a woman, he was now able to observe, of perhaps 55 years of age, and a bad 55 at that. As though to fight the ravages of time, her ladyship resorted to a make-up that was not so much elaborate as excessive; her face looked as though one would have to scrape off the paint with a knife before coming to the skin beneath. Her hands, too, were unpleasant—veiny, dead-coloured, with the long, pointed nails looking as though they had been dipped in blood.

"Yes," she said in a hoarse low-pitched voice that grated on her listener's ears, "your references appear to be quite satisfactory, Giles, and when I spoke to the agency this morning, they said that they were sure you would give me good service. I hope you will be very comfortable here, Giles."

Conventional words, but the new butler did not like the smile which accompanied them. He remembered the words of the gnarled old boatman. They were likely, he considered, to become prophetic.

"I hope, too, your ladyship, that I shall give you good service," he replied—but he spoke in German instead of English.

The Countess put one of the claw-like hands up to her mouth. Even so, a sharp cry of mingled surprise and alarm broke from her lips.

"Who are you?" she demanded sharply, one hand now to her breast; "and why do you speak to me in German?"

The new butler did a surprising thing. Instead of replying, he took from his waistcoat pocket a disc that seemed to be made of silver, or some other gleaming metal.

"This is why," he replied, showing it to her. And now his voice held only authority.

IN A DUNGEON FAR BELOW THE ROOM IN WHICH

THIS CONVERSATION HAD TAKEN PLACE, a girl who, but for her modern dress, might well have been a captive of the original owner of Nevern Castle, crouched against the damp wall. She crouched for a very good reason—around her right ankle was a band of steel. Attached to this was a thin, flexible, but very strong chain made of the same metal, terminating in a staple driven well into the 15-foot thick wall.

The girl was Blanca Tedworth.

So bemused was she in her misery that, for many hours now, she had remained practically motionless in that animal-like position. Every vestige of faith that she had had was now gone; she realised that her plight, although pitiable, although, indeed, almost incredible, was hopeless. Chained there like an animal deep down beneath the earth, with no light beyond the storm lantern, whose wick was trimmed from time to time, kept some times without food and even without water, she longed for death.

But death seemed still far away. It was her robust strength that kept her alive—and, for the first time since she was born, she cursed her youth!

One of her many troubles was that she could not remember the immediate past; she could recall getting on the cross-Channel boat along with a lot of soldiers coming on leave, at Calais; she could recall going on deck and seeing the uniform of the Tank Corps. It was this officer who, after all, she had gone through, the very sight of a British flag made her almost ill with happiness, she had agreed.

They had gone down to the saloon, her companion had ordered a whisky and soda for himself and a coffee for her; she had taken a first sip—and then that awful darkness had come, enveloping her about like a black blanket. . . .

There was nothing between that memory and the infinitely more horrible one of waking up in this dreadful place, which she now knew to be a prison-cell from which there could never be any escape. What had happened to her; where she had been taken; who was responsible for taking her there—all these things were insoluble mysteries. The brutal fact that this was really and not a nightmare, out of which she might mercifully awake, was sufficient. She wished she were dead.

WITH THE FIRST SOUND OF THE BOLT OUTSIDE

THE DOOR BEING DRAWN, she awoke out of her lethargy, springing to her feet, her captive's chain rattling as she did so.

It was a man who now came into the place; before, it had been women. Two women—one thick-set with a cold, hard, unpleasant face, who looked like a servant of some kind, and then another—a more horrible creature this—because, possibly due to fear of showing her face, she wore a mask. Both these women had frightened her out of her few remaining wits—but neither had induced her to tell the truth. She would not tell the truth—not even if they killed her for it. Because, she felt, this resolve was the only possible reprieve she could make to her country for her former foolhardy conduct. Besides, so much was at stake.

The intruder, who was a stranger to her, drew up a three-legged stool, which was one of the few pieces of "furniture" in the dungeon, and regarded her intently.

"Do you want to leave here, Miss Tedworth?" he asked. "Because if you do, it will be quite a simple matter, you know."

She mistrusted his face just as much as she mistrusted his voice. Like the women before him, he would name his conditions; she knew that.

"You realise, of course, that very quickly I must be found? My father is a very important man in this country."

The man put up his hand, smiling as he did so.

"How do you know you are in England, Miss Tedworth?" You may still be in Germany."

She shook her head.

"No, I know that's not true."

"Why do you say that?"

"Because if I were in Germany, there would not be all this secrecy—that woman who comes in wearing a mask would be able to show her face."

This time the man's smile was even more odious. "Perhaps the mask she wears is much more pleasant than the face underneath," he commented; "but we waste time. What did you do with those plans, Miss Tedworth? Tell me that and you shall at least be given a more suitable lodging. You must find this place very damp."

As though to give emphasis to his words, he pulled up his coat-tail and shivered. "It must be a most realistic bit of acting, but it made no impression to her."

"I tell you what I have repeatedly told those two women—I know nothing whatever about any plans."

He jumped up.

"Why do you lie? It's no use—and it only makes you suffer more. Now, Miss Tedworth, you shall have one last chance. And when I say 'last' I mean it." Again he suited action to words, but this time the piece of pantomime was sinister; putting a hand into his coat pocket, he took out a revolver.

"You are becoming a liability, Miss Tedworth, and so, unless you give me the information I require, you will have to die. I am afraid."

A wan smile spread over her pale face.

"I'm not afraid to die—I want to die," she replied.

The further words died on her lips; the man opposite her saw her face grow rigid, whilst her eyes seemed to be on the point of falling out of her head.

"What is it?" he asked gruffly.

The reply did not come from the girl; it came from behind.

"Drop that gun—and put up your hands!" said a voice that sounded like an accusing judge's; "you have played your last masquerade as a British officer, Herr Otto Weiss; your famous impersonations as a captain of the Tank Corps are now at an end. Drop that gun, I tell you."

Even so the Nazi spy would have got his revenge by shooting the girl, had not Blanca Tedworth suddenly ducked. The bullet which had been intended for her brain squashed itself against the dripping wall of the dungeon.

The next moment Tiger Standish had leapt on the man from behind and had brought him crashing to the uneven stone floor. The chained girl watched, in mingled fascinated horror and relief, the terrible struggle which ensued.

If the German was strong, Standish was stronger. Moreover, he was fired by a burning sense of anger. That any girl, let alone a girl of Blanca Tedworth's gentle upbringing, should have been treated like that was a slight to the whole British race.

The third blow that he smashed to the Nazi's face completed the job.

THANKS FOR THE flowers, B," replied Standish, "but

after all it wasn't so difficult. After you had given me that tip about the Countess of Mittenenden, I made a few enquiries on my own, and discovered that she had been one of the most prominent pro-Hitlerites before the war—a fervent Nuremberger and an even more fervent Munichite. A lady with a gaudy past in more than one respect. Delving a little deeper into her past, I found that, amongst her many lovers—and, during her husband's lifetime, too, her many lovers—was the Baron von Stumm. As you know, my dear B., if you don't, you ought to know—the Baron was one of the high lights in pre-Hitler Germany; as a matter of fact he was a big bug in the Intelligence Service. When the Nazis came into power, they took over all the archives of the old Secret Service—and, you may bet, with characteristic German thoroughness, they marked the Countess of Mittenenden's name with an X. They decided, of course, that she was very likely to be useful later on.

"How useful she was proved by what I saw in that dungeon at Nevern Castle. She had been warned to expect a visitor, and when an elderly woman, accompanied by a British officer."

Standish waved his pipe as though it were a musical conductor's baton.

"My dear B.," he chided, "where are the brains of yesterday? The 'old lady' was Blanca Tedworth, of course."

TURN TO Page 7, Column Five



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ENGLAND'S HOMES

MANY people are concerned about the peace terms the world will have after the war. They might also give some heed to another matter of very great importance and one that comes very near to the lives of the people. That is the building and rebuilding of England's homes.

It has happened in the past that for one reason or another building operations have been unduly hurried and conducted for the most part in a haphazard way. At one time it was the urgent demands of the period of industrial expansion all over the country. The ugly and insanitary product has been the shame and regret of subsequent generations. The next period of wholesale building was after the last war, when some of the mistakes of the previous period were repeated.

Now another such building expansion may be in the near future, and it is all-important that the country should profit by experience and do something worthy of Britain. It is not too soon to think and plan, and to further the purposes of the newly appointed Minister of Works and Buildings.

To this end the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects pleads for the early and complete recognition of the function of the trained designer and planner in this reconstruction, so that new dwellings may be made that shall give the fullest possibilities of healthy lives for our people. Unless there is vision and trained skill in planning from the outset there will be the same dreary failures as in the past. Even for the smallest houses there should be the highest available architectural skill.

There will be unlimited opportunities for beauty and utility in design and construction. From the ashes of the cities' blums should arise wisely-planned garden townships where the sun can find its way into the homes of the poorer classes.

All this was said twenty-five years ago, and what came of it? The situation was summed up in the President's few words—the nation trained its architects and then declined to use them. It will be unforgivable if this accusation is allowed to hold good at the end of the present war.

Hitler First Shook Germany Ten Years Ago

A Backward Look at His Early Threats and Promises

A MID such a "furnace-hissing" of events as that in which our common lot has been cast during these latter years it is easy to lose all reckoning of time. I may, perhaps, be permitted to recall the grim and fateful anniversary that fell a few weeks ago; for until that self-same mid-September week in 1930, not one person in a million outside Germany could remember ever having heard so much as the name of the man who to-day imposes his barbaric dominion over four-fifths of the Continent of Europe.

It is true, of course, that the miserable, melodramatic, misbegotten fiasco of Hitler's Munich beer-hall putsch had occupied the headlines for a few brief days in November, 1923, but like Kapp and many other nameless adventurers of that turbulent period, the little Austrian painter had soon relapsed into a total oblivion.

The event which suddenly hurled him like a flashing meteor into the world's ken was the general election of September 14, 1930. Competent observers of the campaign had predicted some increase in the "Fascist" vote—Fascist being at that time the generic term for all people of Hitler's kidney—but no one had been prepared for anything like the eight-fold multiplication of the vote from the 810,000 recorded two years previously to 6,400,000, which raised the Hitlerist representation in the Reichstag from a mere 12 to 107 in a House of 575.

The Alien

At a single bound Hitlerism had leapt up from a contemptible obscurity to second among the swarm of parties which competed for the control of the Weimar Republic. A notable absentee from the embattled ranks of his party in the new Reichstag was Hitler himself, who, as an alien, was disqualified from membership of that assembly.

It is a curious commentary on the methods and mentality of the Weimar Republic that he had never been expelled from the country as an undesirable alien after his arrogant proclamation of himself as "President of the Reich" at the time of his abortive Munich rebellion.

Hitler now became overnight the talk of the world. Newspapers everywhere hastened to devote long articles to his record, attainments and intentions, and speculation both inside and outside Germany was rife as to whether Germany might not be on the eve of another and more formidable Hitler putsch. The street brawling tactics of his storm troopers and the high-flying pretensions of his rhetoric during the campaign had certainly lent some colour to such a possibility.

"A Serious Menace"

Hitler, however, was by now firmly resolved not to let himself be bowled out a second time by premature revolt. He contented himself with an open avowal of his ultimate intention to overthrow the parliamentary regime, but declared that he would employ only parliamentary means in accomplishing his end.

This undertaking, like every other undertaken by him, was made, he eventually broke, but not until February, 1933, when he and his gang set fire to the Reichstag building in order to manufacture an excuse for

proscribing enough of their political opponents to assure themselves the parliamentary majority which appeared otherwise improbable.

Nevertheless, Putsch or no Putsch, his electoral success in September, 1930, caused an immediate and universal uneasiness abroad, which has never ceased to grow from that day to this. As early as September 10, only five days after the election, the Berlin correspondent of "The Daily Telegraph" was already writing that Hitler's movement must be regarded as portending "a serious menace to the tranquillity of Germany, and therefore of Europe."

In the light of what we know now and have learned from the wisdom that comes after the event, that may read to-day like an ironic understatement, but it affords some measure of the apprehension inspired even at that remote hour in the minds of acute political observers.

About 10 days after the elections Hitler gave a comprehensive account of his aims in the course of evidence at a trial in Leipzig of three young

subalterns who were accused of attempting to subvert the army in the interests of the Nazi party. These aims included inculcating the "marital idea" in the German people, "protecting" Germany and "setting her free" and abolishing the peace treaties. When asked how he proposed to abolish the treaties, he replied, "By diplomatic means, and—I state this categorically here—by the complete evasion of these treaties by legal, and if necessary by illegal, means."

Such were the aims for which Hitler attracted 6,400,000 votes in September, 1930, and many more millions of votes in subsequent years till he was complete master of the Reich—aims the logical and literal fulfilment of which is before our eyes to-day.

The treaties have been evaded by a spectacular series of tricks and perjuries, the "marital idea" has been ingrained in the minds of the whole nation to a degree for which history even the history of Frederick II's Prussia affords no parallel, and what, according to Hitler, is the destruction of Poland, Denmark, Norway, Holland and the rest but a matter of "protecting" and "liberating" the German people?

The question has often been put why millions of Germans should have begun to throw themselves into the arms of Hitler in the autumn of 1930, and dupes of German propaganda

have attributed it to the sense of "despair" under which the German nation was alleged to be languishing.

The truth, on the contrary, is that at that moment the Germans had the best reasons for being eminently satisfied with their policy of the preceding six years, the Stresemann policy, of so-called "fulfilment."

As the first-fruits of this policy they had secured, under the Young Plan, a reduction of the outstanding capital liability on account of reparations to £1,850,000,000 and an alleviation of the annual payments due under the Dawes Plan. Above all, in consideration of their undertaking to carry out the Young Plan, they had obtained the evacuation of the Rhineland by the French on July 1, 1930, four and a half years before the Treaty date.

Yet at the September elections, less than three months after the Rhineland evacuation, the mood of the German people was already "Thank you for nothing!" The success of Hitler was a formal notice served on the world that, with the Rhineland now free of French troops, she was preparing to cheat her way

back into a position where she could resume the pursuit of world domination which had been frustrated by the defeat of 1918.

In the following passage Mr. Edgar Mowrer has well represented the sort of thing Germans were saying to themselves: "Why should they be punished for whatever faults the disowned Imperial rulers might have committed? The German people fought the war in the honest belief that it was defending itself against Western envy and Russian barbarism. What justification could there be for these monstrous and apparently unending reparations?"

Actually, in the six years to 1930 Germany had borrowed from abroad substantially more than she had paid out in reparations, so that during that period she had suffered no real burden at all. Seeing, moreover, that she has since repudiated not only the whole of her reparations debt but practically the whole of her borrowings as well, it is clear that she has been living very comfortably at other people's expense. Finally, let it be recalled that in each of several years preceding the present war she squandered on rearmament more than the whole capital liability for reparations under the Young Plan.

In short, to reimburse the victims of her aggression for part of the damage she had inflicted was enough to shoulder a much heavier

burden in order that she might resume her career of aggression. On the basis of the argument summarised by Mr. Mowrer, we are to suppose that when she has been beaten again and has "disowned" Hitler—as she had disowned the Kaiser and Company—she will have acquired a clean sheet from all the crimes she has committed as his accomplice and will feel entitled to be aggrieved if she is not allowed to go scot free.

What it all comes to is this. About every quarter of a century or so Germany is to export a "Herrenvolk" right to chance her arm at conquering Europe and to shake her bloodlust on any of her neighbours who refuse meekly to submit to enslavement. If she succeeds she is to retain all the prizes of aggression; if she loses she is to suffer none of the penalties, or if penalties are exacted, we are to be deafened with an everlasting whine about monstrous injustices, intolerable dictates and all the rest of it, and to be ended with the plea that in ruthlessly trampling down one neighbour after another, she, "honestly" believed she was fighting a war of "liberation" and "self-defence."

Well, Britain and her Allies are going to put an end to this sort of thing once and for all. One of the more famous of Goebbels's lies asserts that we aim to "exterminate" the German people. We intend nothing of the kind. But we are certainly going to hold the German people responsible for all the crimes Hitler has committed on their behalf and with their willing and indeed exulting connivance.

We are going to see to it, in fine, that we and the rest of Europe are well and truly protected for evermore against megalomaniacs which has made Germany a pest to all and sundry for close on half a century past.

Accused Of Shooting Sweetheart

An Army private was accused, at Oxford recently, of shooting his sweetheart dead after he had found letters from a corporal on her dressing-table.

"While he was waiting for the girl at her lodging in Oxford he found some letters written to her by a Corporal Fuller," said Mr. E. G. Robey, prosecuting.

Private Edward George Beesley (29), of the R.A.S.C., was committed for trial, charged with the murder of Irene Sherry (34), a domestic servant, by shooting her with a Service rifle.

Shot Through Heart
Mr. Robey said that the girl was shot through the heart at close range. He alleged that Beesley said in a statement to the police: "When she came in I produced the letters I had found on her dressing-table and she tried to grab them."

"I said, 'You have not been true to me while I was in the Army. It's time you made up your mind after going with me for seven years. I don't intend you having another man to fool like you have me.'"

Gave Himself Up
"She said she would please herself and laughed and treated it as a joke. I picked up my rifle and pointed it at her as she sat in the chair."

"Next thing I heard was a shot. I thought I had missed and I left the house. I wandered about, but in the end I gave myself up."

Women in the New World

By Annie S. Swan

MOST of us remember the poet's tribute to women; I learned it in my youth without comprehending the meaning.

O woman in our hours of ease,
Uncertain company and hard to please;

When pain and anguish ring the brow
A ministering angel thou!

All right, but I am sure the majority of us do not aspire to be the necessary test for that high distinction. We are just ordinary women ready to step into the breach when required.

In the big sorrows and crises of life I have noticed that women stand up to them better than men. They seem to have inexhaustible reserves of courage and even cheerfulness which come surprisingly to the surface in times of stress.

As now, for instance, where should we be without these reserves showing up so splendidly in hours of darkness and danger?

Certainly without them we should be less well-equipped for what is happening—and what may yet happen.

In the new time coming there will be great and urgent demand for the right kind of homes. Whether as wife, mother or sister or friend, every woman will have to make her contribution to it.

A call, a challenge has been made to the womanhood of this country, and the response has been magnificent.

Let us keep it up so that when the struggle is over we may have every

FUNNY SIDE UP

By Abner Dean



"And of course, Waldo never confides his business troubles to me—except when I buy something!"

Rumanian Ex-Deputy Assassinated

Hungarian terrorists are planning acts of vengeance against their former Rumanian masters.

Ex-Deputy, was recently assassinated in Cluj.

The entire Rumanian Press expresses indignation and publishes photographs showing Rumanian peasants being beaten by Hungarians.

Incidents causing tension in Bucharest and Budapest are providing another example of how ineffectual are Hitler's plans for peace in Europe.

Balkan passions are now more roused than at any time since the last war.

German Call To Punish Leaders

"La France au Travail," which is published in Paris, is again pressing, under German direction, for the Riom court to pass sentences not on absentees, but on such leading personages as M. Daladier and Gen. Gamelin, now under "house arrest" at Chateau Chazeron, in the Puy-de-Dôme.

It sneers at the "favoured treatment accorded them." These chosen guests are hardly even discreetly guarded," it says, "for a guard of honour stands at the door to salute them as they enter or leave. A private soldier undergoing punishment for a trivial offence might well envy them their lot."

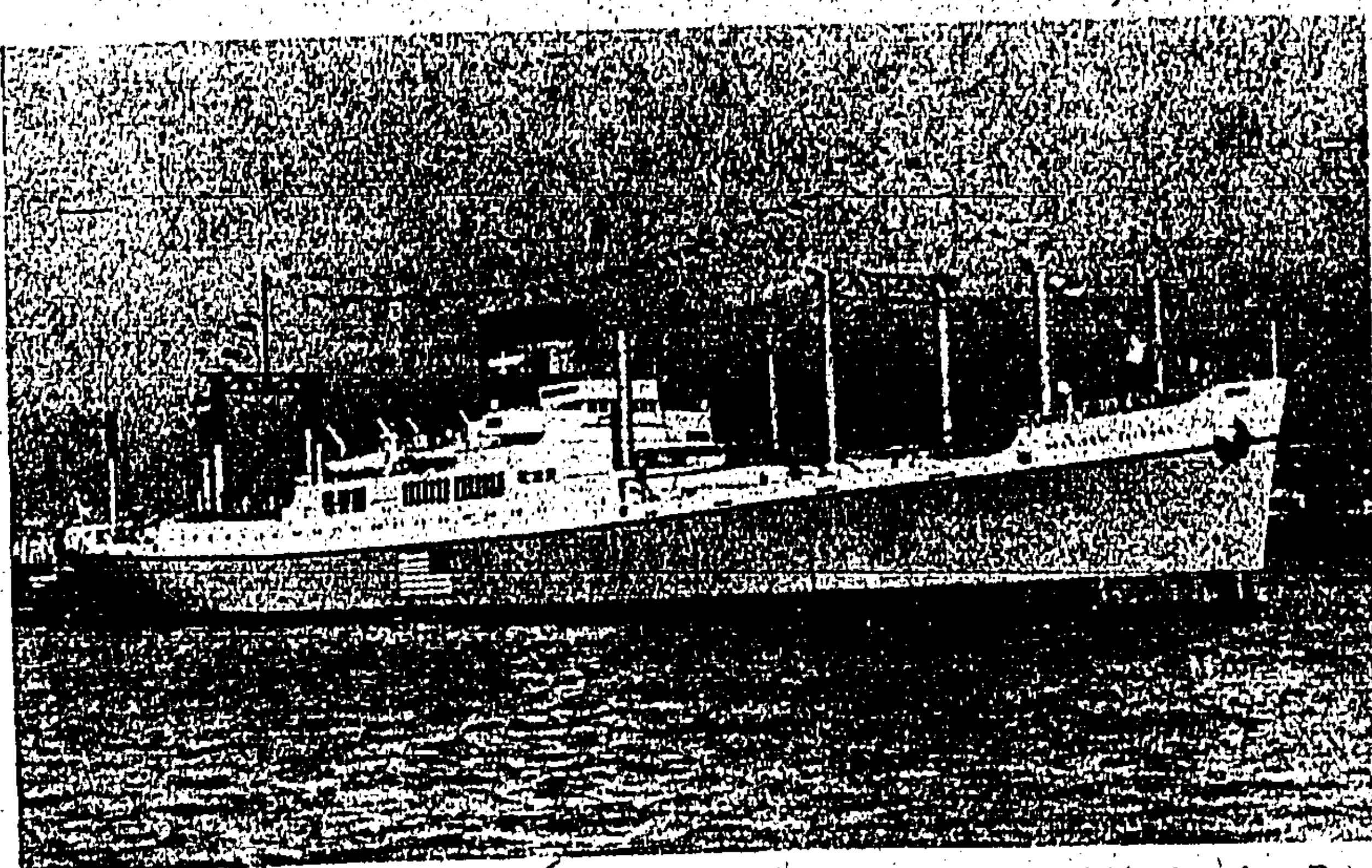
"Le Jour-Echo de Paris," published in non-occupied territory, hastens to reply that Marshal Pétain will satisfy the French thirst for justice and penalties "as soon as possible." It describes the chateau as "having a mournful aspect which lends the imprisonment the appearance of an act of expiation."

Public House Bombed, Drinks Free To All

When Henry Bartoll, labourer, of Arzelle-square, W.C., and his wife were accused of stealing wine from a bombed public house at Clerkenwell, it was said that A.R.P. workers had helped themselves.

A police officer said there was some irregular distribution of liquor in which council employees took part. The magistrate dismissed the charge against Bartoll, and, as his wife had been in custody for seven days on remand, she was discharged.

NEW AMERICAN ROUND-THE-WORLD LINER



Striking study of the President Jackson, new round-the-world 9,300-ton American President Lines vessel, which visited Hongkong on Sunday. She is on her maiden voyage. The liner which has accommodation for 100 passengers, boasts several notable features in modern shipbuilding design.

King Sends Wedding Present To "Mouse"

THE inscription, "To Mouse Fielden, on his marriage, from George R.L., Elizabeth R., October 5, 1940," was engraved on the lid of a silver cigarette box which stood among wedding gifts at Taxal Lodge, Cheshire, recently.

"Mouse" is the nickname of the King's pilot, Wing Commander Edward Henley Fielden. He was married to Miss Angela Ramsden-Jodrell, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. R. J. Ramsden-Jodrell, of Taxal Lodge, Whaley Bridge.

The inscription was in the King's own handwriting. Another gift was a canteen of silver from the royal household.

Men and officers of the King's Flight formed a guard of honour as the bridegroom left the 700-year-old Taxal church after the ceremony with his bride. Hundreds of villagers greeted them.

Wing-Commander Fielden has been equerry and pilot of the King's Flight since 1930. He accompanied the King on his tours of air-gymnastics and aircraft factories. He joined the R.A.F. in 1924.

was appointed personal pilot to the Prince of Wales in 1929, and was the first man to pilot a king of England when he flew King Edward VIII from Norfolk to London.

He was released from royal duties to rejoin the R.A.F. at the outbreak of war.

More than 30 German and Austrian refugees arrived in Singapore recently from Siberia via Japan on their way to South America to join their relatives.

REBUKE TO BANKERS

Sir Robert Kindersley, President of the National Savings Committee, has sent a sharp reply to Middlesbrough bankers and stockbrokers who complained that the 2½ per cent. National War Bonds did not attract a sufficient yield for industrialists and other large investors.

Sir Robert, in a letter read to the town's war bonds sub-committee, stated, "If we attempt to split hairs over yields on our money at a time like the present we have no right to ask or expect that our fighting forces should continue to try and protect us."

"I think we have all in these days to realise," he wrote, "that it is almost impossible to produce a security which will entirely fit the needs of every investor."

"The sacrifice which anybody with money is called upon to make is so infinitesimal compared with the sacrifices which our airmen and others are making to protect our country, our lives, and all that we possess. That hardly bears thinking about."

President Lines Policy In U. S. Draft Plan

William G. McAdoo, Chairman of the Board of American President Lines, has announced a three-point plan for employees who may be drafted into service in the United States Army:

1. Each draftee or volunteer will be paid a bonus equal to a full month's salary;
2. The Company will pay the insurance premium on his group policy during a year's absence in service;
3. The Company will be guided by the principle of re-employment with preservation of seniority rights.

Mr. McAdoo said that a special "Honour Roll" plaque will be prepared, listing the names of all American President Lines employees, ashore or afloat, who have been called to the service of their country.

Canada Sends Serum

Reserve Supplies
Canada is shipping immediately 50,000 packages of anti-tetanus serum for use in Great Britain.

The shipments are being made in response to an appeal from the British Red Cross to Col. George Nasmith, the Canadian Red Cross Commissioner in London, who at once got in touch by cable with Canada.

Col. Nasmith said that arrangements had been made for supplies from the Connaught Laboratories near Toronto, which supplied large quantities during the last war.

Major-Gen. O. L. Robinson, of the British Red Cross, said that more reserve supplies of the serum were needed, and that was why Canada was approached. The shipments would be available for general use where required. The serum is for the prevention of lockjaw, and will be used where necessary in the case of air-raid victims and wherever else needed.

Home Guard Left Arms In Open Car

Owen W. Horne, a Home Guard and accountant of Forest Gate, Denmark Hill, was fined £3 at Portsmouth for leaving his motor-car unlocked.

It contained a German rifle and pistol, ammunition and bayonet, and when questioned he produced three live Mills bombs from under the back seat.

"HUMMING HORACE"

--London's New War Noise

"HUMMING HORACE" is London's new noise.

It is quite distinct from "Wailing Winnie" of the siren, and it has nothing to do with the "churning" noise of Goring's bombers.

It is an eerie, high-pitched vibration that seems to come sighing from afar during the night, and it has been puzzling householders with their ears cocked for more familiar and more unwelcome sounds.

"Big Brother" Now, the secret is out. Balloon barrage men confirm that it is the humming produced by the wind in the balloon cables that are among London's most noticeable amenities—a kind of big brother to the humming in telegraph wires in more peaceful days.

One Westminster resident was distinctly relieved when a reporter explained the noise to her.

"I thought I was suffering from 'siren ears' or noises in the head through listening for bombers," she said. "Now that I know it's the balloons I shall be quite happy about it. It will be a comforting noise to have round."

BOY AND GIRL Fine Fighters

Britain's youngest fire-fighters are members of East Suffolk's "Service Squads"—groups of schoolchildren volunteers, pledged to give their spare time to national service.

The girls' job is to cart water for the boys and to render first aid if necessary.

So efficient have these children become that they may be entrusted with health and small crop fires started by incendiary bombs. Many of the young volunteers are between 8 and 10 years old.

Since the first "Service Squad" was formed in a village near Ipswich hundreds of children have volunteered in all parts of the county.

The children elect their own officers and have little or no adult supervision. When they suggested forming their own fire brigades were arranged for demonstrations. Grass fires were started on waste land, and the youngsters had them under control in no time.

King Haakon Loses Power To Regency

A secret session of the Norwegian Parliament has adopted by 78 votes to 49 a proposal to transfer King Haakon's powers until the war ends to a Regency Council.

The Storting's adoption of the motion is a compromise between two alternatives offered by the Germans. These were:

- A Quiescent Cabinet in the "Kingdom" of Norway; or
- A German Protectorate in Norway.

Another vote took from the Nygaardsvold Cabinet the power accorded it on April 10 of representing the country abroad, if necessary.

Peace Elections

A condition of transference of the King's powers is the holding of elections within three months of the war's end, Regency Council decrees being valid only until then.

A preceding motion for abdication was rejected.

Latest information from Oslo states that the Regency Council has not yet taken over the Administration.

Church Union Of 7,000,000

An act of union recently brought into being the Free Church Federal Council and so give one united voice to seven million Free Churchmen in England, Ireland and Wales.

This union is the culmination of long deliberations of the views of the National Free Church Council and the Federal Council of the Evangelical Free Churches, between which two bodies for many years there has been a certain amount of overlapping.

Now, in circumstances different from any which were visualised when the discussions began, a consolidation has been brought about which may be of the utmost significance for the spiritual future of the nation.

The denominations constituting the new Council are the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland, the Congregational Union of England and Wales, the Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church of England, the Independent Methodist, the Wesleyan Reform Union, the Moravian Church and the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion.

BREAKFAST CLUBS

Pls clubs will shortly be producing about 800 tons of bacon a year—chiefly from waste. Two hundred clubs have been formed in Britain since May.

Gifts

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At the end of a tiring day he'll welcome a pair of comfortable Slippers.

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Gift Suggestions

It's fun to give something out of the ordinary, something the others didn't think of—and here are a few suggestive hints.

1. The Christmas tie joke is out of style—because Wing On's gift neckwear for men offers the latest in style and good taste. There are over hundred different patterns and color combinations from which to choose.
2. Let your gift go up in smoke—in a smart, sociable way. Choose from a grand array of Ronson accessories for the smart smoker—pocket lighters, lighter-cigarette combinations and table and desk lighters and combinations.
3. Outstanding in beauty and dependability as well as value. A Bulova watch is a gift that lasts a lifetime and brings a lifetime of joy and appreciation to whoever receives it.

THE WING ON CO., LTD.

Around The Courses

HANDS AND FEET CO-ORDINATED

Mistakes A Beginner Is Prone To Make

Country Club Competitions

(By "Birdie")

A PLAYER recently remarked that since he'd tried to swing along the lines taught he hadn't been able to hit the ball properly. He was, of course, referring to our friend Ernest Jones and the things he says can be done to a ball by just swinging a club as though it were a piece of string with a weight on the end.

Though one sympathises with this player and the difficulties he faces, it is realised that it all arises out of the quite common practice of many of playing golf before reading about it or taking tuition.

One can, with lots of practice perhaps groove oneself into as perfect a swing as Bobby Jones had, but without fore-knowledge how that swing is achieved one can also groove faults that will take many weary hours to correct.

So many start off with imperfect and hazy versions of how to hit the ball, they may have heard of transference of weight, and rolling and snap of the wrists, and with only the haziest of ideas of how it is done, go out and try to put them into practice.

Invariably they manufacture their own ideas how it is done, and what is more continue with those ideas until the repeatedly peculiar behaviour of the ball convinces them that something is wrong. Now they turn to books and begin to ask advice, and invariably it means alteration to one or several things—and they can't hit the ball.

For a beginner, I did read somewhere, that there could be nothing better than to ignore the advanced phases, especially the transference of weight, and just swing the club from a steady stand.

In this, I might add, for I've tried it myself, that Bobby Jones' very narrow stance is of great help. Place the feet no wider than the width of the shoulders and there is little or no room for transferring weight.

The co-ordination of hands and feet is one of the most difficult phases of the game.

But there is something—fundamental—that should be learned at the start, and that is the in-and-out swing. One of the sayings of the golf world is "hit in the direction of the slice". The in-and-out swing is (in cricket language) swinging in the direction of mid-off. This tends to hooking the ball and eradicates the slice.

So what I would say to all beginners is read what should be done; learn from someone who knows how it should be done, and then go out and try and do it, but don't work it out on your own.

COUNTRY Club competitions are well under way. Four matches in the Junior Championship and three in the Ladies Cup were played last week-end.

The Junior Championship matches resulted as follows:

A. A. Gutierrez beat C. H. Basto 3 and 1

A. R. Pinna beat T. K. Chow 8 and 0

M. F. Pinna beat C. C. Pereira 8 and 3

Geo. Lee beat A. T. Lee 2 up.

The women's matches were:

Miss A. Sequiera beat Miss M. C. Churn on the 19th.

Miss M. B. Churn beat Mrs A. G. Botelho 4 and 3

Mrs F. E. D'Almeida Remedios beat Miss M. B. Churn 5 and 3 (Second Round).

Qualifiers for the Captain's Cup were C. H. Suen and M. F. Pinna.

THE return match between Kowloon and the Country Club is difficult to arrange for competitions—make a suitable date hard to find. Kowloon's fixture card is not made up beyond 1940, but the Country Club apparently has no free days before April.

However, something, no doubt, can be fixed up.

Japanese Swimmers To Visit Philippines

Four Japanese swimmers, including Masao Arai, invited by the Philippine sports authorities, are sailing from Kobe aboard the Asuta Maru on December 22. They will be led by Coach Sato, Donat.

Footballers Coping With Air Raid Alarms

LONDON, Dec.—There has been much discussion in soccer circles following raid warnings—and the long intervals which ensue on London grounds while public and players waited for the "All Clear"—as to the best policy to adopt in such situations.

One school of thought would like to see the match abandoned, but Mr. Harris Curtis, the Brentford manager, is firmly of opinion that no matter how long these siren interruptions may last, the Clubs must keep faith with the public so long as the light permits play to be resumed.

There is, however, the time question, and it is thought that the experiment at Griffin Park should meet the situation. Here after the siren has sounded "All Clear" it was arranged that the match should be one of 35 minutes each way.

After the interval, a further 20 minutes were played the same way as the first 15 minutes, and then the players crossed over for a second spell of 35 minutes.

Steps will be taken to prevent players from catching colds and there is no doubt every effort will be made to keep the sport going.

Our Own Correspondent.

"Y" Cricket XI

THE following will represent the European Y.M.C.A. against the Civil Service C.C. "A" XI at cricket on Sunday:

C. Logan, W. H. Ingelby, F. E. Lawrence, W. Gegg, H. Eager, F. Willis, H. Brokenshire, G. Swanson, E. Curtis, H. Eardley and F. Tuckley.

Sir Victor Sassoon At Thai Derby

Bangkok, Dec. 2.

Sir Victor Sassoon, who is flying to China, arrived yesterday afternoon and immediately proceeded to the races where he was in time to see the Thai Derby run and later was a guest at the Turf Club's Derby dinner.

AUSTRALIAN SWIMMER FEELS OLD AT 24! William Kendall Retires

FOR TWO REASONS—pressure of work and advancing years (he is 24 years of age!)—William Kendall, one of Australia's fastest swimmers has decided to retire.

"I've reached my peak and passed it; it's time I got out," mumbled Bill. "Twenty-four may seem young, but behind it is 12 years of active competition, the last eight as a senior."

In his dry-land hours, Australia's Welshmuller, he said that since the war began he had been unable to give the time for the intensive training essential to keep championship form.

National and State title swimming has been cancelled because of the war, but Kendall said there was no chance of his reconsidering his decision if the war situation eased. His only swimming would be at patriotic carnivals, and for relaxation.

At Berlin Olympiad
AFTER winning the national sprint championship six years ago, Kendall became the first Australian to break the minute for 100 meters when he swam 59.8 seconds at the Berlin Olympic Games, 1936.

In February, 1938, he swam 100 yards in Rushcutters Bay, Sydney, in 54.4. That time was three fifths of a second outside the record in Australia, made by Duke Kahanamoku (Hawaii) in 1919.

A Comparison
BUT if 24 is getting on in years for a swimmer, it must be merely the adolescent stage for a distance runner, because Allyn Gainsford, who won the New South Wales modified marathon (15 miles) over the coastal hills north of Sydney, is 58.

It is his sixth win in this event, his first having been 13 years ago. The victory winds up a season in

TRYING TO BREAK THROUGH



Longmuir (Royal Navy) about to make a dash for the Army line during the Navy-Army Quadrangular Tournament rugby match at Causeway Bay last Saturday. Navy surprisingly beat Army, and took the lead in the Tournament Table. —Ming Yuen.

Small Units Rugger League Matches

R. Scots "B" 9 R. A. S. C. 0
Middlesex 6 R. Signals 0

TWO MATCHES in the Army Small Units Rugby League were played yesterday, Royal Scots "B" beating Royal Army Service Corps by 9 points (three tries) to nil, and Middlesex beating Royal Corps of Signals by 6 points (two tries) to nil.

Xmas Day Programme At Cottage Club

THE FIRST ANNUAL Cottage Club paper-hunt for the President's Cup, will be held on the afternoon of Christmas Day, starting from the Club-house. There will be a draw for ponies by members of the Cottage Club at 3.30 p.m. and the hunt will move off at 4 p.m.

The participation of non-members who can provide their own ponies is cordially invited and invitations in this connection have been issued to other hunt and riding clubs. Individual riders will also be very welcome.

LADIES CUP
In addition to the President's Cup, which will be presented to the winner of the hunt, there will also be a Ladies' Cup for the first lady home and a cup for the second rider to complete the course.

XMAS TIFFIN
The Cottage Club will hold its annual Christmas Tiffin on Boxing Day at 1 p.m. and the President and Committee will welcome members, their families and friends.

BOXING DAY
A cavalcade has been arranged for Boxing Day morning at 11 a.m., to return at 1 p.m. Ponies will be drawn for at the club.

Play was scrappy in both games. R. Scots "B" were very much the superior to the Service Corps, and Bateman scored the opening unconverted try wide of the posts.

There was very little open play, most of the work being done by the forwards. Shortly before the interval, Sims, a forward, registered the second unconverted try, and in the second half, Mackenzie, another forward, placed the issue beyond doubt with a third unconverted try.

Win For Middlesex

MANY opportunities were thrown away in the second game, in which Middlesex beat the Signals 6-0 after leading 3-0 at half-time. Touch kicking spoilt many a movement.

Capt. Man tried to instigate more open movements, but without avail, though the second try of the match came from such play. The first was by Man in the first half, which was unconverted, and the second, in the second period, was by 2/Lt. Hancock.

Naval Rugby Teams

The following will represent Royal Navy against Club Rugby Tournament matches on the Navy ground, Causeway Bay, at 4 p.m. on Saturday:

1st XV—S/Lt. McCall, Tel. Honeywell, A/Lt. Tel. Paul, A/Lt. Tel. Bowden, Mid. O'Riordan, Lt. Rutherford, S/Lt. Wintler, Lt. Watson (Capt), Sgt. Mansfield, C.P.O. Wirt, and A. B. Longmuir, S/Lt. Beattie, S/Lt. Poole.

Reserves—S/Lt. Kennedy, Cdt. Lambie, L.S.A. Palmer, Lt. (E) Brown, L.A.C. Stockman.

NAVY "A"

The following will represent Navy "A" against Club "A" at Rugby on the Navy ground at 2.45 p.m. on Saturday:

P/Lt. Wright, S/Lt. Kennedy (Capt), A. B. Lilley, P.O. Wilson, P.O. Sidner, Cdt. Lambie, A. B. Ness, L. B. A. Palmer, S/Lt. Richardson, P/O. Jones, L.A.C. Stockman, P/O. Bugh, S/Lt. Carey, Ldg. Sig. Mitchell, Mid. Murray-Jones.

Reserves—P/O. Clough, S/Lt. Danger, L.A.C. Grace, A. B. Smith, S/Lt. Sumner, Cdt. Thornhill, S/Lt. Eager.

Club "A" Players
The following will represent Club "A" against Navy on the Club ground at 5 p.m. to-day:

S. M. Thompson, C. F. Needham, D. Hyatt, T. A. Foster, D. J. Bosanquet, J. G. Charter, P. J. D. Cremo, A. F. Walker, J. B. Dunnett, R. G. Castleton, L. A. Benn, C. J. O'Brien, G. T. Dainton, B. Hynds, J. Redman, B. Barrow, E. A. Matthews.

which he won the St. George Club's 10,000-meter, 10-mile and 15-mile cross-country championships.

His 10 miles in 53m. 31.6s. at Sydney University Oval 18 years ago, still stands as the Australian track record.

I'm just coming good after 20 years of distance running," said Gainsford, inhaling his second wind deeply.

Enjoyable Billiards At European "Y"

A SECOND enjoyable billiards evening was held at the European Y.M.C.A. yesterday. Two novelty competitions, a match and an exhibition match constituted the programme, and were most entertaining.

The match, between the Under 40's and the Over 40's, resulted as follows:

UNDER 40's	OVER 40's
E. W. Morland 8	Major Wright 35
R. Goldman 3	H. Eager 25
H. Patrick 25	L. H. de Cosier 24
L. Pennell 1	S. Kemp 25
R. L. Neubronner 25	P. A. Jones 12
A. F. Evans 20	H. E. Langley 25
	80 130

Novelty Competitions

TWO NOVELTY competitions, the first rounds of which were of 11 up, were played.

In the first, "spot" was only allowed to score in the right hand pockets and "plain" in the left. Points scored contrary to this were conceded to one's opponent.

The winner was R. Goldmann who beat E. W. Morland. There were 16 entries.

In the second competition, in which players were not allowed to score consecutive shots the same (e.g. two cannons), L. H. de Cosier beat Major Wright in the final (25 up). There were eight entries.

EXHIBITION MATCH

C. TERRANS met Fred Marsh, of the Dockyard Recreation Club, in an exhibition match, in which, though the standard was not high, scoring was steady.

Terrans won by 200 to 151.

Civil Service And Craigengower Cricket Elevens

The following will represent Civil Service Cricket Club First and Second elevens in friendly cricket matches on Saturday at Pokfulam and at the Valley, respectively:

1st XI (away)—J. E. Richardson, K. J. Attwell, P. Baker, T. V. N. Fortescue, R. H. Griffiths, C. J. Hawkins, D. J. Hollidge, D. McCallan, A. E. Perry, N. L. Smith, N. Whitley.

2nd XI (home)—H. E. Strange, G. Ainslie, J. Barrow, H. P. Cunningham, G. Davidson, H. P. Harper, T. E. Lawrence, J. F. Nicolson, G. Stone, A. Watson, A. M. J. Wright.

SUNDAY'S MATCH

The following will represent Civil Service "A" against the European Y.M.C.A. on Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Valley: W. Colledge, K. J. Attwell, G. Davidson, F. Haynes, D. J. Hollidge, F. J. McGowan, J. Mitchell, H. Parrott, N. L. Smith, G. Stone, A. Watson.

Craigengower Teams

The following will represent Craigengower First and Second teams against Indian R.C. at cricket on Saturday at 2 p.m. at Happy Valley and at Soekunpoo respectively:

1st XI—E. Zimmerman (Capt), G. Souza, A. K. Imali, D. I. Billimoria, A. J. Hulce, E. R. Francis, A. B. Ramani, E. A. Lee, W. Hong Sling, L. Youngs and M. C. Hung, Reserve, E. H. Ramani.

2nd XI—A. M. Gou, H. (Capt), A. Hung, J. W. Leonard, W. K. Wey, C. Leonard, N. Broadbridge, T. Lock, G. M. Omar, U. H. Zamil, E. Mitchell and C. W. Lam, Reserve, J. Eager and L. Chos.

Millwall Captain Refuses To Leave Field

THERE was an amazing scene in the Crystal Palace v. Millwall match recently when the referee called all the players off the field after J. R. Smith, the Millwall captain, had refused to go off after being given marching orders.

After an absence of five minutes the teams returned and the game was resumed without Smith.

Penalty Sequel

THIS extraordinary incident was the sequel to the awarding of a penalty to the Palace after 38 minutes.

Millwall players protested, and twice the ball was kicked away from the penalty spot—once among the crowd!

Then occurred a scene between some of the Millwall men and a section of the crowd, following which Smith had his orders to leave the field.

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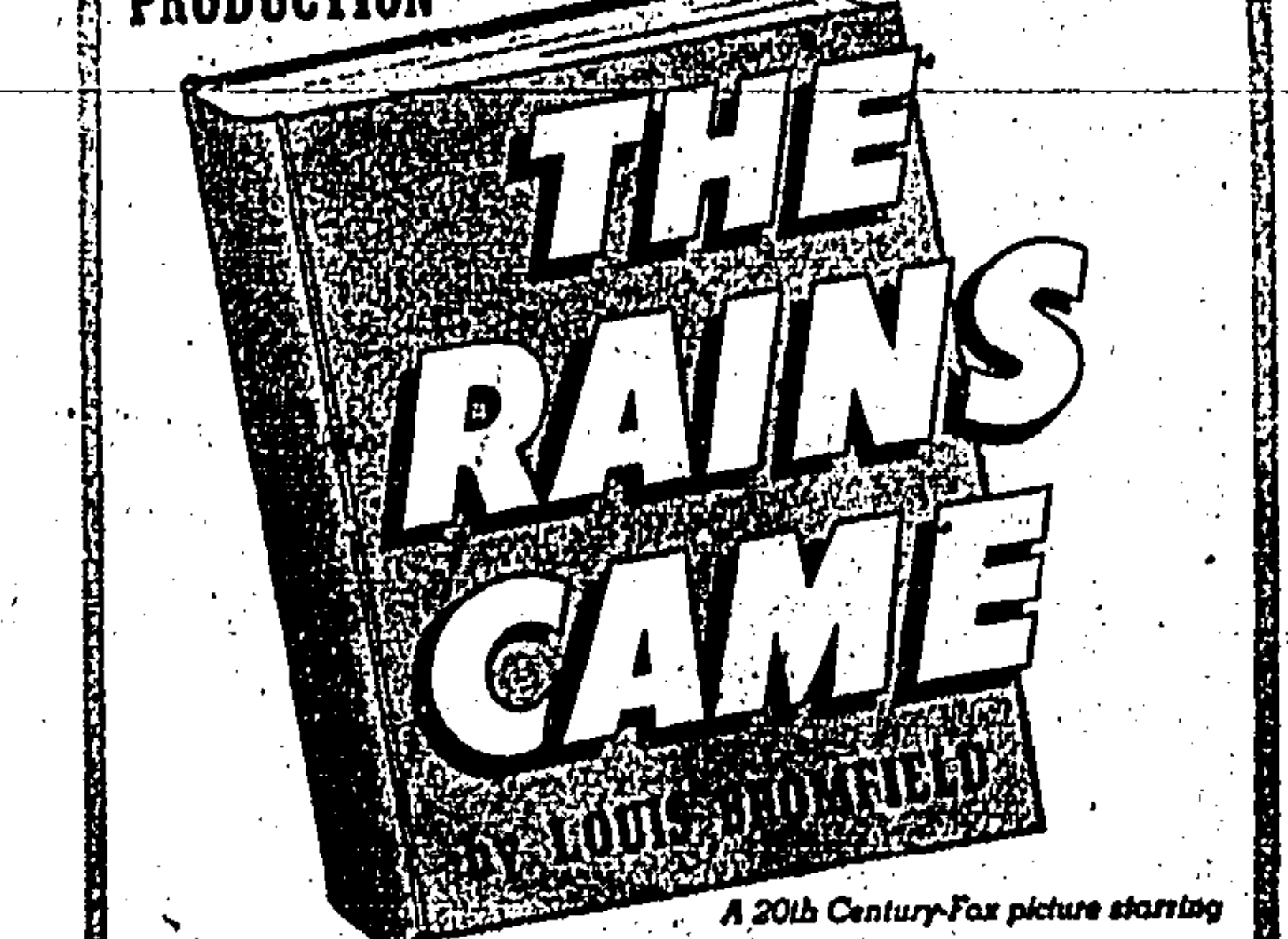
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NANCY



By Ernie Bushmiller

NAZI SECRET IS MISLAID

CAPTAIN EBERHARD SPILLER, Assistant German Air Attache up to the outbreak of war, has been killed in air fighting over Britain. It is now possible to disclose that Spiller, really a spy before the war, committed one of those blunders which are occasionally characteristic of German agents.

He had a house in Hampstead. In it he had hidden certain papers concerning a device at that time considered to be Germany's secret weapon.

When war was imminent Spiller hurriedly cleared out his house, but in his haste could not find these papers, which were later found. They had fallen down the back of a drawer in a large chest.

Britain Gets It

Thus Britain was able to obtain first-hand knowledge of Germany's advanced plans for this weapon. Spiller fled to The Hague, in Holland, and was engaged in espionage there until the invasion. He was a close associate of Baron von Helldorf, a very notorious member of the German Secret Service.

Did Not Pay Debts

He was among the members of the German Embassy staff who failed to pay their debts before returning to Germany. His victims included many West End tradesmen, hotels and restaurants.

He even persuaded an attaché of a neutral Embassy to cash a dud cheque the day before his departure. Clubmen suspected him of card-sharping, and he was therefore avoided by the majority of the Corps Diplomatique.

RECRUITS RUSH TO JOIN DE GAULLE'S ARMY

Larger recruiting offices for General de Gaulle's Armies of All Free Frenchmen were opened in London recently to deal with the increasing numbers of volunteers.

The recruiting offices have now been transferred to 25, Gordon-square, Bloomsbury, W.C.1, and these will be open every day, including Sundays.

Recruits have been enrolled from as far away as Brazil, United States, and Canada. Martinique and French possessions in the Far East. So great has been the response to General de Gaulle's call to All Free Frenchmen that special information centres have had to be opened in New York, Canada, the Argentine, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Peru, and Venezuela.

British Museum Opens Reading Room

The famous reading room at the British Museum, with its great circular glass roof, closed since September 23, during the intensive bombing of London, has reopened. "Protective measures taken," Sir John Forsdyke, principal librarian said, "have not been for the room itself, but to safeguard the books. They have been moved to a spot where there is more adequate protection."

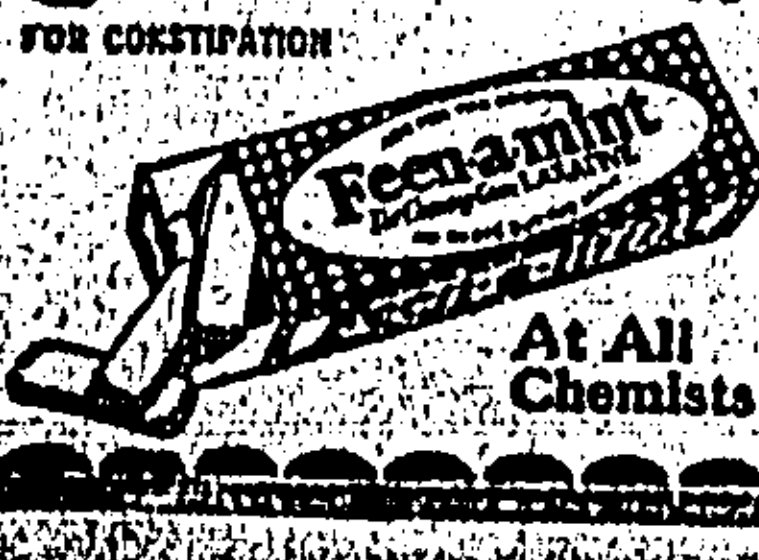
All remaining manuscripts have also been moved. The manuscripts reading rooms will remain closed until the danger of air attack is passed.

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Broadcasts Upset Czech Fascists

News has reached London that that Vlnka Organisation (Czechoslovakian Fascists) has received 3,000,000 Czech crowns from the Nazi authorities in Prague to fight against the Czech Protectorate Government and the National Unity Party.

But the Czech broadcasts from London concerning the organisation are having such an effect that members are leaving the party, fearing the consequences of their membership.

It is learned that the Nazi authorities forbade the Czechoslovakian nation to celebrate the third anniversary of the death of its first President, T. G. Masaryk, and that those closely connected with him were not allowed to leave their homes on that day.

Barred From Tomb

People were even forbidden to visit Masaryk's tomb in Lany. More Czechoslovak patriots, including many Catholics, have been arrested.

Bust Of King Leopold

The marble bust of King Leopold has been restored to the Belgian Pavilion in the World's Fair, after its removal, as a result of his capitulation to Germany.

At that time, the Belgian Refugee Government instructed the Belgian Commission at the World's Fair that Leopold was no longer King.

Restoration of the bust was accompanied by an official explanation of the surrender, by the Speaker of the former Belgian Parliament (M. Cauwelaert), whose version of the circumstances surrounding the capitulation has apparently profoundly impressed the Belgian Commissioners.

STAPHYLINIDAE LOSE THEIR GOOD NAME

The Staphylinidae, or rove-beetle (there are about 800 varieties in the British Isles) has lost its good name.

Until now it has been regarded as harmless in spite of being known as the "devil's coach-horse."

Professor P. A. H. Mueschamp said it was harmless at an insect at Leicester on five-year-old Anthony Brian Bancroft. Anthony died of blood poisoning after having been bitten by a rove-beetle.

In this case, the professor said, the beetle had apparently been in contact with some poisonous matter. "I would rather be bitten by a thousand of these beetles than by one fly," he said. He explained that the "devil's coach-horse" was so named because it raised its tail when alarmed.

A verdict of death by misadventure was recorded.

London's First Jury Forewoman

Mrs. Mabel Frances Clark, a news-agent and tobacconist, of Albany Street, Regent's Park, N.W., has made history.

She was the first woman in the history of the London Sessions to be forewoman of a jury and the deputy chairman. Mr. A. W. Cockburn, said: "She must be congratulated on the way she did the work."

"I was a little surprised when the jury selected me as forewoman," she said. "But it was an interesting experience."



DUG FROM BUILDING — After Nazi bombers wrecked this building in London, air raid wardens work frantically to rescue woman buried in debris. She is being removed from wreckage, at right.

Blowing Britain's Trumpets

When, to the blare of trumpets, the German troops marched into Paris, the chances are ten to one that the trumpets themselves were made in Britain. Britain rules that particular world market.

"The export trade in British trumpets, cornets, trombones and band instruments in general is showing a tremendous increase," states Mr. C. E. Timms, Secretary of the Association of Musical Instrument Makers of Britain. "The English concertina, like the trumpet, is to be found in every country in the world. Music strings come into the same category. The best guitars in South America have British strings."

The trumpets of England and the English concertina have today the same prestige as the Rolls-Royce engine has in the motor world. Even in the home of the dance band, the United States, trumpet, cornet and trombone players prefer a British instrument.

Britain is also now making its own mouth-organs and soon will be exporting them too.

BOMBED AS THEY SAW 'IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU'

"Three hundred women and children sat in a Brighton cinema watching the film 'It Could Happen to You'."

Overhead a German bomber, chased by a Spitfire, jettisoned its bombs.

Two high explosive bombs crashed through the cinema roof into the audience.

That was on a Saturday afternoon. The next day, after police, air raid wardens and ambulances workers had toiled by torchlight throughout the night to bring out dead and wounded, it was believed there were still a number of bodies in the wreckage.

Workers' houses, residential property and shops were also demolished in this, Brighton's biggest disaster.

MAIZE ON THE DOLE

The Argentine Government has put the maize growers on the dole. Faced with the largest crop for many years, together with the loss of most of the European market, the Government has bought the lot.

The crop, estimated at 11,200,000 tons, will be taken over at a fixed price and disposed of by export, home consumption, new industrial uses and social relief purposes.

Profits from the Exchange Control Fund are to be used to finance the dole, and any deficiency will be made up by advances from the Central Bank.

Tiger Standish, Ace Of British Agents

(Continued from Page 3.)

"Why, of course?" "Well, what happened was this! Otto Weiss, the fellow who has made a name for himself since the war started of masquerading as some kind of other of British officer—this time he was posing as a captain of the Tank Corps—pulled up to the fair Bianca on board the Channel steamer, asked her to have a drink, dropped something in her coffee, and then when he collapsed, claimed that she was his sister, who was subject to fainting fits, and had her removed to a private cabin. There, with a little aid from a stewardess, also in the Nazi pay (the name she goes under, by the way, is Annie Higgins—but she won't go any more Annie Higgins-ing!) he turned a girl of 19 into a woman of 60."

"What about passports?" "You don't think a little thing like that would stop Otto Weiss and company, do you? Haven't I told you that the Germans are very efficient?"

"Go and boil your head! It's one of the most extraordinary things I've heard of since the war started." "Extraordinary, but true. The girl did have the plans but she got the wind up—and who can wonder at it after what she went through in Germany?—so she popped them into a bank's safe."

"Good God!" "It's all right, B—I wired Y.38 and he's on his way here now."

"With the plans?" "Of course, you old fathead! Can I get through with my yarn?"

"Bellamy growled assent. He didn't care for authority to be taken out of his hands."

"I forgot to tell you that I read the Countess of Miltenden—what a hag!—quite a lecture on moral behaviour. Or should I say 'immoral behaviour'? Thanks to your staff work, she accepted me without quibble as the new girl—and so I liked my manly beauty, it seems, that she invited me to share her bed the very first night. I told her that in my capacity as a super-official of the Gestapo, a kind of travelling superintendent, that I had to keep my Aryan ideals unimpaired. That was why I was able to prevent her from spilling the beans to Otto Weiss when he called."

"How did you manage to convince her about that?" "Well, I flashed a coin and pretended it was a Gestapo badge; I spoke German; I was very rude and I belittled Hitler. I tell you she swallowed it whole."

"I left her thinking hard. You see, I recited from memory that passage from Dr. Hermann Raushen's book, 'Hitler Speaks'—you know the one; it runs like this:

"I am having a comprehensive card index compiled of every influential person in the world. The cards contain every detail of importance. Will he take money? Can he be bought in any other way? Is he a saint? Is he a scoundrel? In what way? Is he homosexual? That is of the utmost value, because it provides close associations that can never be escaped from. Has he anything in his past to conceal? Can he be subjected to pressure? It is on the strength of these reports that I choose my men. That really is politics."

"And I told her that what applied to men, applies with equal force to women," Tiger wound up. "She admitted then that she had been forced to give cellar-room to the captive Bianca."

"And what did you say?" "I said: 'Thank you, sir! You should have seen her face—that is, if you can call it a face!'"

On Saturday in the "Telegraph" there will be another Sidney Horler story, continuing the series, "Tiger Standish On The Warpath."

KING'S GRAPES

By order of the King the grapes from the royal vine at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, the oldest in the country, are being sent to war hospitals and evacuated children from London living in Windsor.

KLEENEX

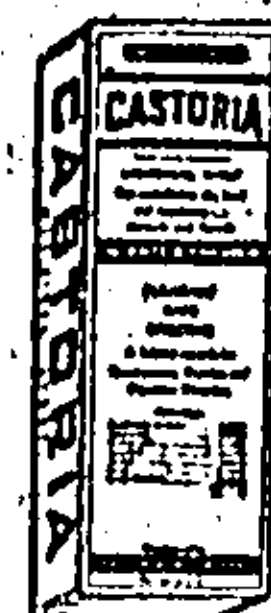
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Grand Softball Matches

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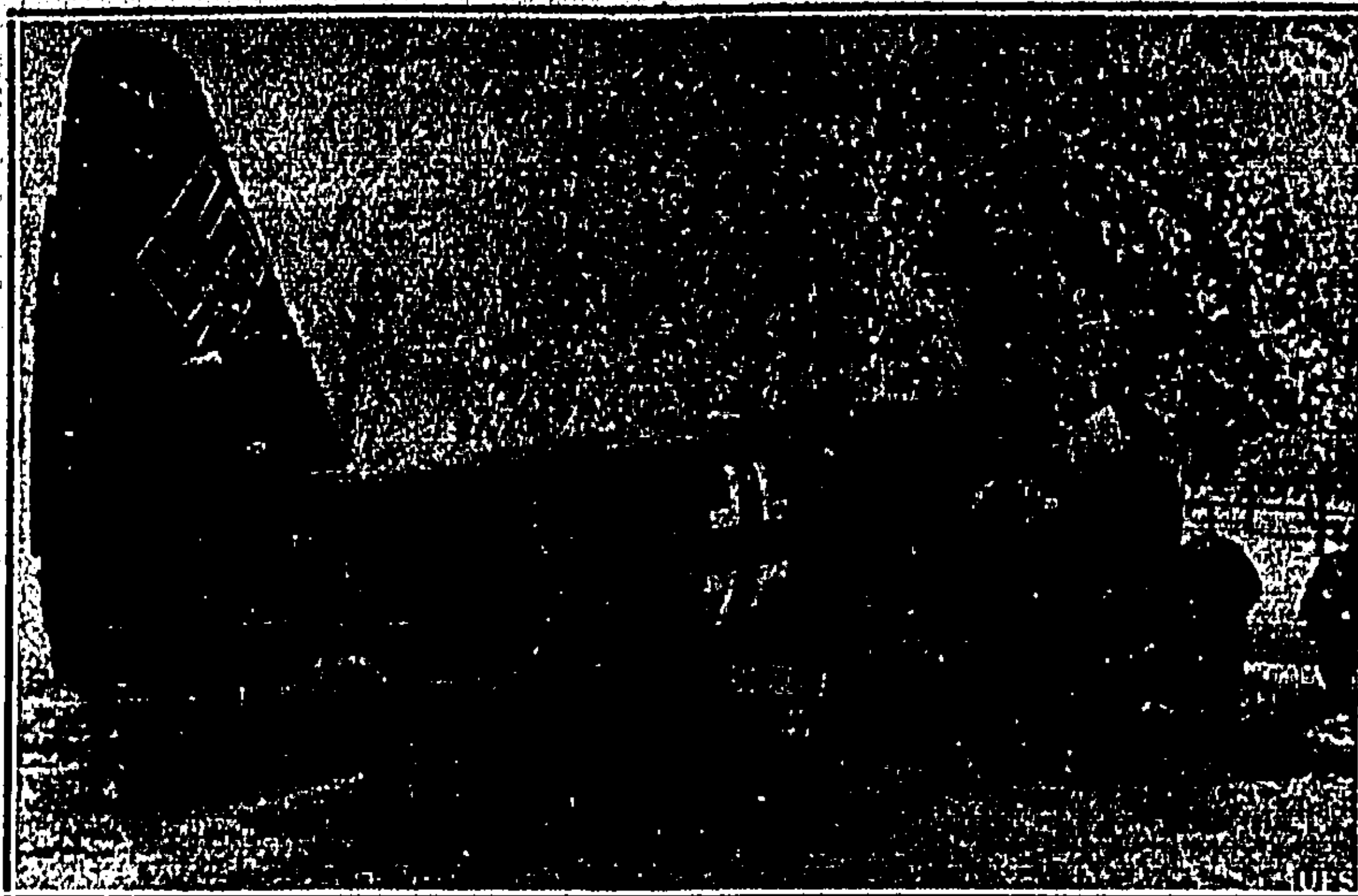
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ENDED IN ENGLAND—Last journey for German Junkers plane ended in England when British anti-aircraft gunners shot it down. Note bullet holes in fuselage. Plane loaded on truck is headed for what British censor, passed by British censor, calls a German scrap heap.

Jingoism In Britain Is Now Dead

The Rev. Walter H. Armstrong, a Norwich Methodist and first Moderator of the newly formed Free Church Federal Council, believes that the war should silence for ever "all these silly persons who have been telling us that it does not matter what we believe."

Delivering his inaugural address to the Council in London, he declared that the war was the fruit of Nazi and Fascist creeds forced into the minds of youth for years past. The atrocious cruelties were the logical outcome of the beliefs imposed.

"In my judgment, the overwhelming body of Free Churchmen stand by the Prime Minister in the gigantic and almost overwhelming burden that lies heavily upon him. As far as we can, we would help him in the bearing of the burden," he said.

Anti-Christian Forces
"From him we hear no glorification of war as we have done from Hitler and Mussolini. Jingoism in this country is either dead or breathing its last breath."

The Archbishop of Canterbury said: "We are witnessing in our generation the most vast and terrific struggle between Christian and non-Christian forces that has ever been seen."

It was significant that the anti-Christian forces had been able to yoke to themselves all the power and strength of science and perfection of that machinery to which so much of the spirit of the age had been subjected.

'PLANE LOSSES COMPARED

German and British losses of warplanes to the end of September in combat between the Air Forces of the two countries, according to Air Ministry figures, were:

	German	British
1939	62	28
1940, Jan.	6	5
Feb.	7	3
Mar.	11	7
April	53	47
May	225	228
June	224	170
July	245	135
Aug.	1,109	372
Sept.	1,102	387
	(168 pilots saved)	
Total	3,644	1,417
	(318 pilots saved)	

Of the 1,102 aircraft lost by the Germans in September, 450 were bombers. All except nine were brought down over Britain or British waters. R.A.F. fighters were responsible for 960, A.A. guns for 130, and balloon barrages for three.

Czechs Are Rationed For Shoes Now

Ration Cards for shoes and slippers have been issued by the German authorities in Bohemia and Moravia, under a decree which is a masterpiece of German thoroughness.

Whenever he wants a pair of house-shoes or goloshes, a Czech has now to make personal application to his local authorities.

Before they can issue a ration card they must satisfy themselves that the applicant's last pair is beyond repair.

From Old Hats

There is no need for a Czech to apply for a ration card if he wants house-shoes or slippers made entirely from paper felt, remnants of old shoes, useless rubber tyres or discarded hats.

Neither are ration cards necessary for the purchase of men's shoes made from lac or women's shoes made from gold or silver fabrics. But under the decree shoes of lac or gold or silver fabrics may not be produced within Reich and Protectorate boundaries.

Anglo-Mexican Relations

Important Moves

A resumption of diplomatic relations between Mexico and England, to show Mexican sympathy for the British cause at this time, has been urged to President Cardenas by Senor Isidro Fabela, the Mexican representative on the League of Nations and former Foreign Minister.

Senor Fabela conferred with the President at Guanajuato after reaching an unofficial understanding with Mr. Patrick O'Shea, ex-British Consul at Torreon, who recently returned to Mexico by air from the United States, where he had been on an official mission.

The plan laid before the President recommended that the petroleum controversy should be deferred indefinitely.

England and Mexico broke off diplomatic relations in 1938 following the expropriation of properties owned by the Mexican Eagle Company.

22 Prisoners Escape From Devil's Island

Twenty-two convicts from Devil's Island arrived at the Island of Vieques, off Puerto Rico recently, as reported San Juan that the French colony is demoralized and numerous prisoners are deserting. The convicts are reported to be short of food and medicine and violent. Numerous Devil's Island prisoners are roaming the Caribbean Sea in improved boats.

Camouflage Uniforms Developed

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (UP).—Camouflage uniforms have been developed by army engineers which will "blend" snipers into a background of trees, shrubbery or snow, it was learned recently.

These suits, some cut as slip-on raincoats and others as regular uniforms, were suggested by designs used in Europe, but the army feels its designs are better.

The American sniper will wear garments which will give him the appearance of tree bark, a broad leafy plant or a clump of bushes. To complete the effect, he will wear a net over his helmet into which he can stick small, leafy branches.

The designs were worked out at Fort Belvoir, Maryland, where a board of engineers is seeking new methods to break up the vision of enemy aircraft and ground observers.

No Khaki Tents
New problems of camouflage have been created by increasing use of aeroplanes and infra-red photography. The latter has made practically useless the colours that formerly were depended upon to conceal army encampments.

As a result of these experiments, it was learned the army has decided to abandon the traditional khaki tents. In the future they will be olive drab.

Army engineers now doubt the value of "dazzle" painting which formerly was employed to give army tanks and trucks the appearance of an Easter egg. The theory that it confuses the enemy has not stood up under tests. Vehicles probably will be painted a dull olive drab. The principle effort will be to eliminate shiny surfaces.

PRINCES CAUGHT WITH HUNDREDS IN ROME PURGE

A sensational report indicating the activity of a widespread anti-war movement inside Italy reached New York recently from John T. Whitaker, Rome correspondent of the "Chicago Daily News."

He said that far-reaching measures to purge Italy of defeatist elements were revealed when Prince Alessandro Torlonia and Prince Filippo Doria were caught in the Fascist dragnet involving hundreds of arrests.

The authorities are determined, said Whitaker, to leave no Italian citizens any opportunity to talk against war or to spread bad feeling between the two "loyal allies" of the Axis.

Prince Torlonia was married in Rome in 1935 to the Infanta Beatrice, daughter of the King of Spain.

Nazi Pilot Rushed Back Into Service

After Three Days

A German pilot, shot down at 2 a.m. after a raid on London, told Robert Mead, a farm worker, to whom he surrendered at dawn, that he came out of hospital—he had broken his leg—only three days before.

His account of having been rushed back into front-line service, was borne out by markings on his parachute. It was stamped to show it had been issued to him three days before.

His plane which crashed in flames, was a big Heinkel night bomber. It was one of Germany's latest machines, for salvaged parts were dated August 1940.

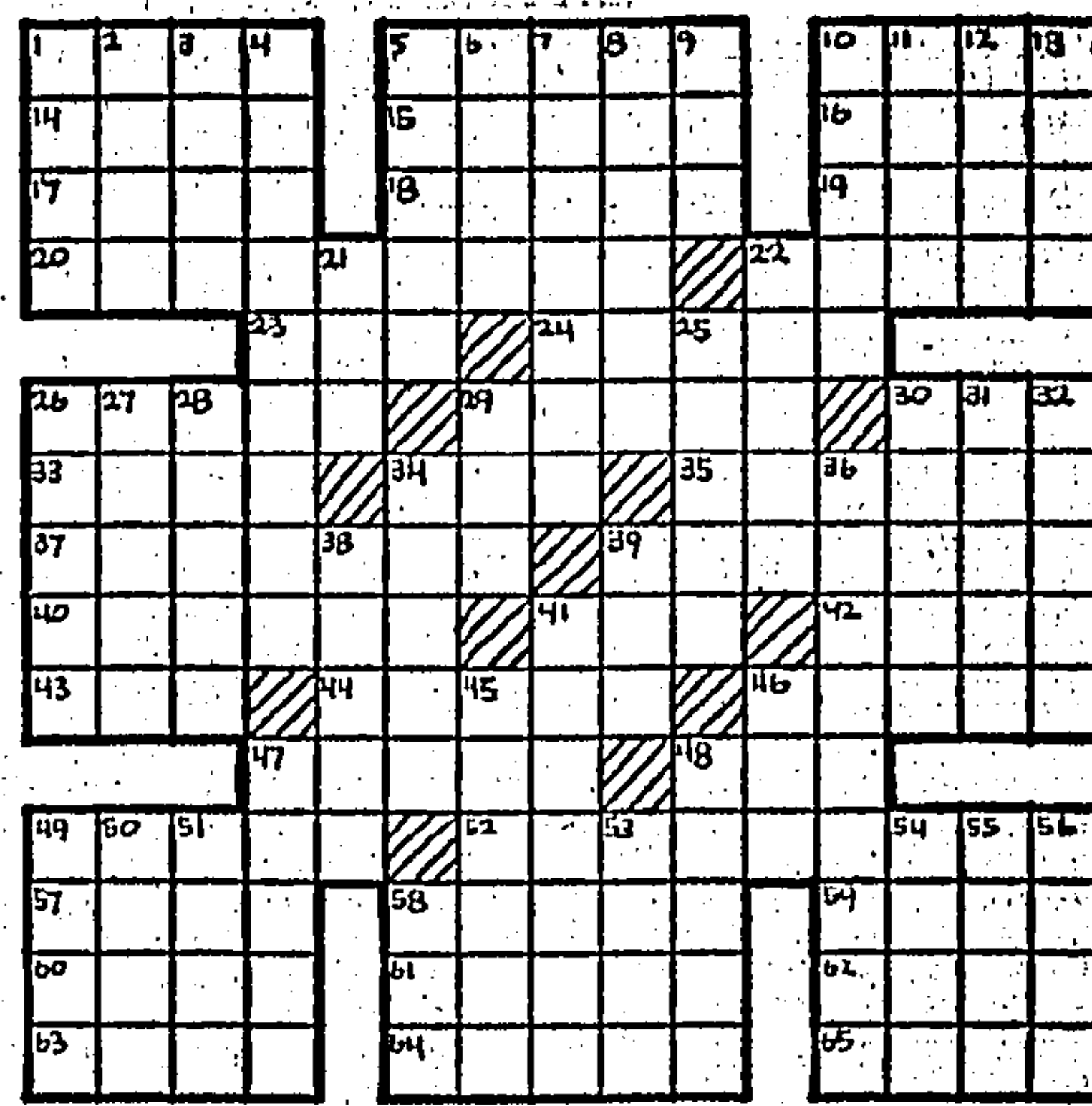
Another of the crew, a sergeant, was found two miles away. The three others were trapped in the plane when it fell in flames.

Crossword Puzzle

By LARS MORRIS

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

1—Put into water	10—Cover carefully
2—Suddenly	11—Unwanted bit of
3—Indian's price of war	12—Variation
4—Muscle	13—Custom
5—May gallop	14—Depart
6—More devoid of	15—Violence
7—Proved	16—Took without
8—Short poem	17—One who has
9—Not to order	18—Commence
10—Quiet language	19—In addition to
11—Curled worm	20—Get rid of
12—Personal name	21—Foot of a hill
13—Chion	22—Cooked in water on
14—Person melted out	23—Kind of dove
15—Human	24—Only one termination
16—Entrance-hall	25—Packing of years
17—Pond	26—Get rid of
18—Shape of doughnut	27—Cooked in water on
19—Abstract conception	28—Foot of a hill
20—Unfavorable	29—Foot of a hill
21—Quantity operated	30—Cooked in water on
22—Covered	31—Kind of dove
23—Dance step	32—Only one termination
24—Proved	33—Packing of years
25—Plural number, things	34—Get rid of
26—Blasphemy	35—Cooked in water on
27—Blasphemy	36—Kind of dove
28—Blasphemy	37—Only one termination
29—Blasphemy	38—Packing of years
30—Blasphemy	39—Get rid of
31—Blasphemy	40—Cooked in water on
32—Blasphemy	41—Kind of dove
33—Blasphemy	42—Only one termination
34—Blasphemy	43—Packing of years
35—Blasphemy	44—Get rid of
36—Blasphemy	45—Cooked in water on
37—Blasphemy	46—Kind of dove
38—Blasphemy	47—Only one termination
39—Blasphemy	48—Packing of years
40—Blasphemy	49—Get rid of
41—Blasphemy	50—Cooked in water on
42—Blasphemy	51—Kind of dove
43—Blasphemy	52—Only one termination
44—Blasphemy	53—Packing of years
45—Blasphemy	54—Get rid of
46—Blasphemy	55—Cooked in water on
47—Blasphemy	56—Kind of dove
48—Blasphemy	57—Only one termination
49—Blasphemy	58—Packing of years
50—Blasphemy	59—Get rid of
51—Blasphemy	60—Cooked in water on
52—Blasphemy	61—Kind of dove
53—Blasphemy	62—Only one termination
54—Blasphemy	63—Packing of years
55—Blasphemy	64—Get rid of
56—Blasphemy	65—Cooked in water on
57—Blasphemy	66—Kind of dove
58—Blasphemy	67—Only one termination
59—Blasphemy	68—Packing of years
60—Blasphemy	69—Get rid of
61—Blasphemy	70—Cooked in water on
62—Blasphemy	71—Kind of dove
63—Blasphemy	72—Only one termination
64—Blasphemy	73—Packing of years
65—Blasphemy	74—Get rid of
66—Blasphemy	75—Cooked in water on
67—Blasphemy	76—Kind of dove
68—Blasphemy	77—Only one termination
69—Blasphemy	78—Packing of years
70—Blasphemy	79—Get rid of
71—Blasphemy	80—Cooked in water on
72—Blasphemy	81—Kind of dove
73—Blasphemy	82—Only one termination
74—Blasphemy	83—Packing of years
75—Blasphemy	84—Get rid of
76—Blasphemy	85—Cooked in water on
77—Blasphemy	86—Kind of dove
78—Blasphemy	87—Only one termination
79—Blasphemy	88—Packing of years
80—Blasphemy	89—Get rid of
81—Blasphemy	90—Cooked in water on
82—Blasphemy	91—Kind of dove
83—Blasphemy	92—Only one termination
84—Blasphemy	93—Packing of years
85—Blasphemy	94—Get rid of
86—Blasphemy	95—Cooked in water on
87—Blasphemy	96—Kind of dove
88—Blasphemy	97—Only one termination
89—Blasphemy	98—Packing of years
90—Blasphemy	99—Get rid of
91—Blasphemy	100—Cooked in water on



Under the Distinguished Patronage of H.E. the Acting Governor.

THE HONGKONG SINGERS

assisted by Y. K. SZE (bass)

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All proceeds will be given to the Lord Mayor's Fund for the relief of air raid victims.

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ADDED Latest Movietone War News

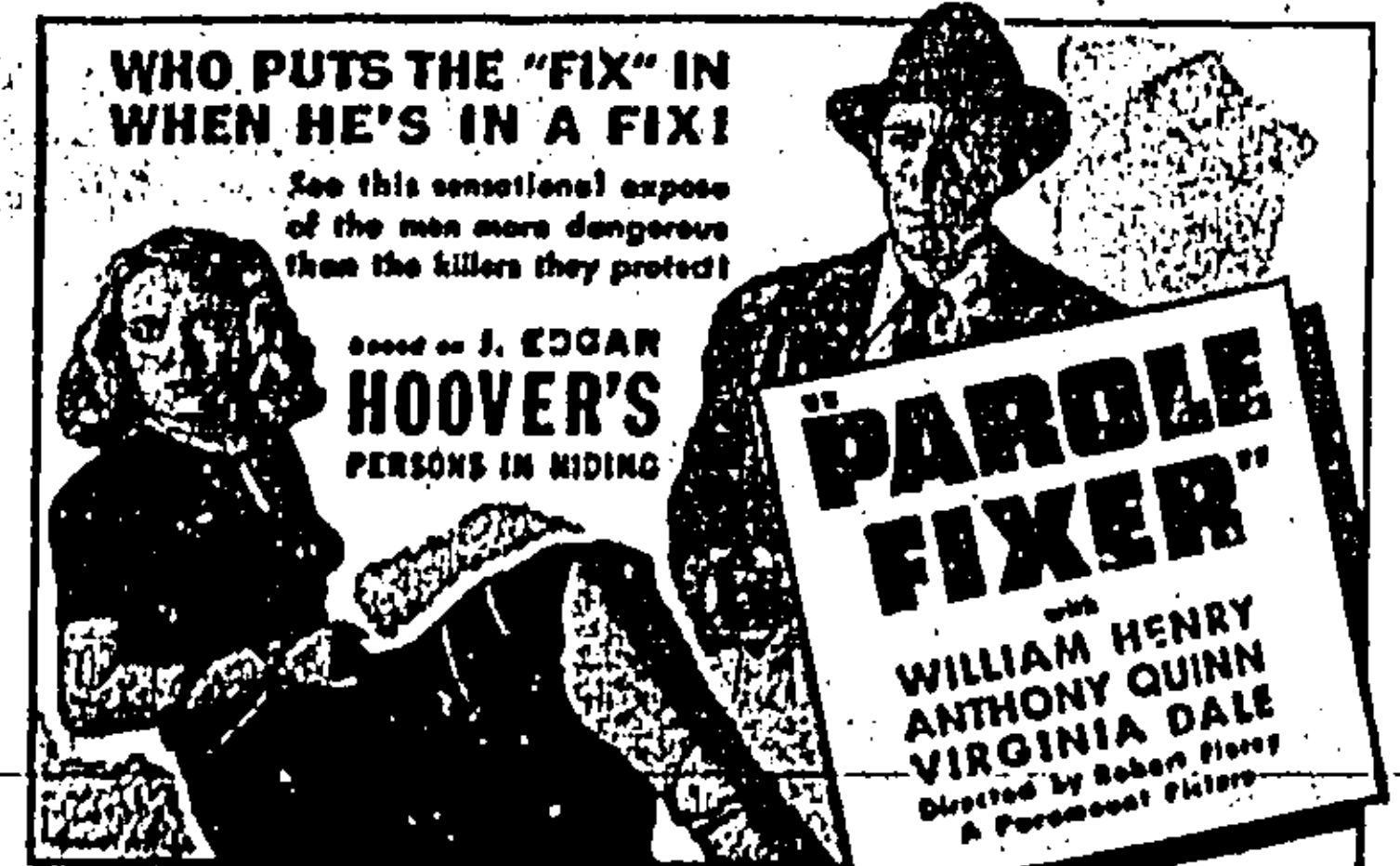
THE FIRST PICTURES OF THE ILL-FATED
ITALIAN INVASION OF GREECE THROUGH ALBANIA AND
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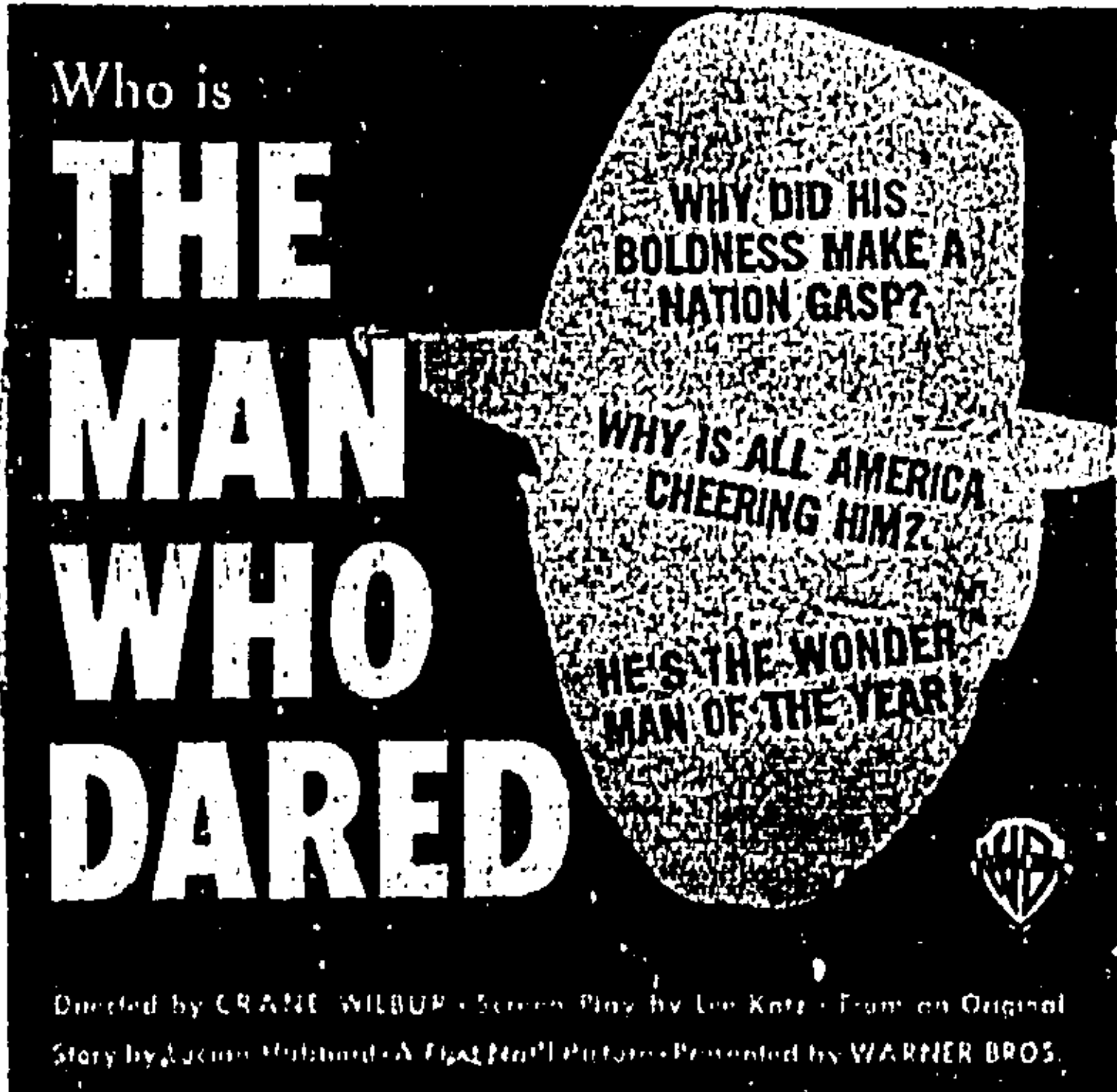
A shoot-up melodrama which stands head and shoulders above all G-men pictures. In the United States there are 14,000 habitual criminals on parole, 30% of the convicted men bought their parole through shyster lawyers and crooked politicians, no punches are pulled in exposing this nefarious political racket.

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HOW COLONIES CONTRIVE TO BALANCE TRADE LOSS

LONDON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—Economic agreements have just been negotiated with the Free colonies in Africa and with the Belgian Congo.

These facts were mentioned in the House of Lords to-day by Lord Lloyd, Secretary for the Colonies, as some of the many steps taken in the organisation of a vast scheme of co-ordinating colonial production, not merely between British and Allied colonies, but more especially among British colonies themselves.

Colourful Story Of Invasion

Continued From Page 1

the Italians on the escarpment had given up.

All arrangements to receive fresh prisoners from Sollum were completed yesterday (Monday) at Bugbug, where over 12,000 had already been fed and watered before passing on.

"Victory Avenue"

I have just watched 8,000 Italian soldiers, officers, non-commissioned officers and men, marching down "Victory Avenue" through Egypt. But they marched as prisoners, every two or three hundred of them being guarded by a single cheerful Cockney private and the "Victory Avenue" down which they marched was the road between Sollum and Sidi Barrani which Marshal Graziani has been building several months past.

The road, which will now be a nice present for the Egyptians, would have cost at least £200,000 to build.

A fantastic sight met our eyes as our car came over the rising ground near Bugbug. We saw the entire valley shrouded in clouds and dust, through which the evening sun glowed while from the dust emerged a seemingly endless stream of dark-green uniformed figures with khaki-clad British soldiers marching smartly at their side.

Cheerful Prisoners

The Italians were chatting, laughing and smoking, apparently completely heedless of the fact that the whole illusion created by Fascist propaganda has been swept aside in a single week.

The "Victory Way" to Sidi Barrani, a typical straight Roman road whose rapid construction was a considerable engineering feat, bears many signs of this propaganda. All along the road are stones erected in honour of Mussolini and of the Sidi Barrani end is a memorial put up even before the road was finished recording that "The 12th Artillery Company, in the face of the malice of the enemy, in the burning sun and the biting wind, made this road to link together the sands of Libya and Egypt."

Though it is not yet asphalted, this road forms a useful line of communication for the British forces advancing into Libya.

Empty Bugbug

There is hardly anything at Bugbug (itself just a solitary house and a series of Italian water-tanks now guarded by British sentries distributing water to the prisoners as they stream through).

Several more thousands of prisoners had been gathered round the water tanks last night. An infantry major was in charge of their feeding. While we were talking to him an Italian officer came up, saluted and asked for transport for a medical officer to take seven wounded men to hospital. The major fixed him up with a lorry which an Italian doctor was allowed to drive himself.

Meanwhile the crashing to bombs and the roar of anti-aircraft fire has been making Bardia look like Hitler in Germany when the Royal Air Force are having a busy night.

Bardia Assailed

From a height on the coast east of Sollum I watched the hottest firework display of flaming onions and anti-aircraft fire and bombs that I have seen in this part of the world. It was all part of the encouragement to the Italians at Bardia to capitulate rapidly.

The only really of the Italians was to send a small number of lone bombers to harass the British troops.

As to the Dutch Indies, the Governor of the Straits Settlements was authorised to undertake direct discussions with the Netherlands authorities whenever these were required.

The British and Netherlands Governments were so impressed with the necessity of maintaining full liaison that they had formed a Joint Anglo-Netherlands Committee on economic matters. Many of the problems that affect the colonies concern, to an equal extent, a large number of other countries which are not colonies. It would be useless, for example, to try to place cocoa or coffee in future in Crown Colonies unless we took into consideration the interests of Brazil and other South American countries and interests similarly concerned with coffee, etc.

Ceylon Markets

Lord Lloyd mentioned some of the colonial economic ups and downs as the result of war conditions. Ceylon had lost a small copra market but was doing well on tea, rubber and plumbago. Malaya had lost part of its copra market but was abounding in prosperous with rubber and tin. Hongkong is doing pretty well in general entrepot shipping, etc.

Palestine is in some difficulties over citrus exports on account of the lack of shipping.

The sugar colonies of the West Indies are quite comfortable. Trinidad is doing well with oil and British Guiana with bauxite.

In all cases of hardship, we have found and are finding financial means of saving the colonies from grave suffering. Realising the weight of the war impact, the colonies are getting on extraordinarily well.

Financial Aid Is Necessary

Continued From Page 1

Treasury, to the House of Representatives' Appropriations Committee to the effect that Sir Frederick Phillips, the British Treasury official, had told him that England could make no more commitments for the purchase of war materials in the United States unless financial aid was extended.

Mr. Morgenthau is said to have repeated a statement which he has already made on other occasions that he believed that the United States would not extend loans or credits unless Congress modified or repealed the Johnson Act. He left his hearers with the impression that such a decision was entirely up to Congress.

Crisis In Spring

Concurrently came a report that Mr. Cordell Hull, the Secretary of State, has told members of the United States Defence Commission and other Government officials that Britain would probably face a serious crisis in the spring unless the present delivery schedules of United States war supplies were considerably increased.

He is understood to have urged all speed possible in producing planes and other supplies.

At the same time it is learned that the shipping situation is being examined to determine whether additional merchantmen might be available for sending supplies to Britain.

Suggestions Made

The "Washington Post" in a double-column leader under the heading "Call To Action," declares that all the President's vast reserves of military readiness will be drawn upon to cope with the problems of national defence.

Turning to the question of financial aid, the paper suggests that apart from repealing the Johnson Act, there are many ways of assisting, including paying more than market value for raw materials from the Empire; buying consumer interest in sources of those materials; and buying an equity interest in British oil and other holdings in the Western Hemisphere.

Beaverbrook Warns Britain Of Nazi Plans

FROM PAGE ONE

springing to dominate Europe. He sits on a three-legged stool compelling all superiority, mechanised forces and the fifth columnist methods of Hitler's stool. She has seized the control of the air by day with fighter squadrons of Hurricanes, Spitfires, Defiants and Whirlwinds.

The German newspapers daily disclose signs of the immense attempt Hitler is making to bring out a huge air force in the spring. These are sure and certain signs of a feverish development in production.

We Shall Overcome

We shall meet and overcome the danger by industry, enterprise, endurance and fortitude. It will be a hard struggle but the builders of aircraft have had difficult tasks before.

All the machines we lost during the four months in which the battle raged over Britain have been fully paid for by public contributions.

It is now a contest between the industrial forces of Britain and the resources and strength of the combined nations of Europe's conqueror and conquered. Against them the British work doggedly and willingly with the certainty that we shall destroy the enemy by our labours.

London Disturbed

TOPEKA, Kansas, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—Mr. Alfred Landon, Republican Candidate for Presidency in 1936, declared on his return here from a visit to Washington that he had been advised "by reliable official sources that Hitler was planning to invade Britain about the middle of February."

Mr. Landon said that he had found a "definitely disturbed feeling in administration circles over the failure to co-ordinate American defence activities."

Vichy Hopes Italy May Lighten Terms

FROM PAGE ONE

peace between France and Germany may be concluded. The grounds for the hope are that Italy has been so greatly weakened that Germany may now be able to persuade her to renounce most of her claims against France. The rock on which earlier Franco-German negotiations came to grief might thus be removed.

Nazis Suspicious

Owing to the complete failure of Laval's policy, M. Flaminio is bound to move cautiously in the direction of such a policy. The fact that Herr Otto Abetz has gone to Vichy suggests that Germany is not entirely satisfied with Flaminio's nomination and indeed it is rumoured that Germany may feel obliged to send troops to occupy Lyons.

Reports from Italy show increasing confusion and uneasiness concerning the war situation. An example is the rumour current in Italy that Marshal Badoglio and other generals have been executed for treachery.

More Libyan Forts Captured

FROM PAGE ONE

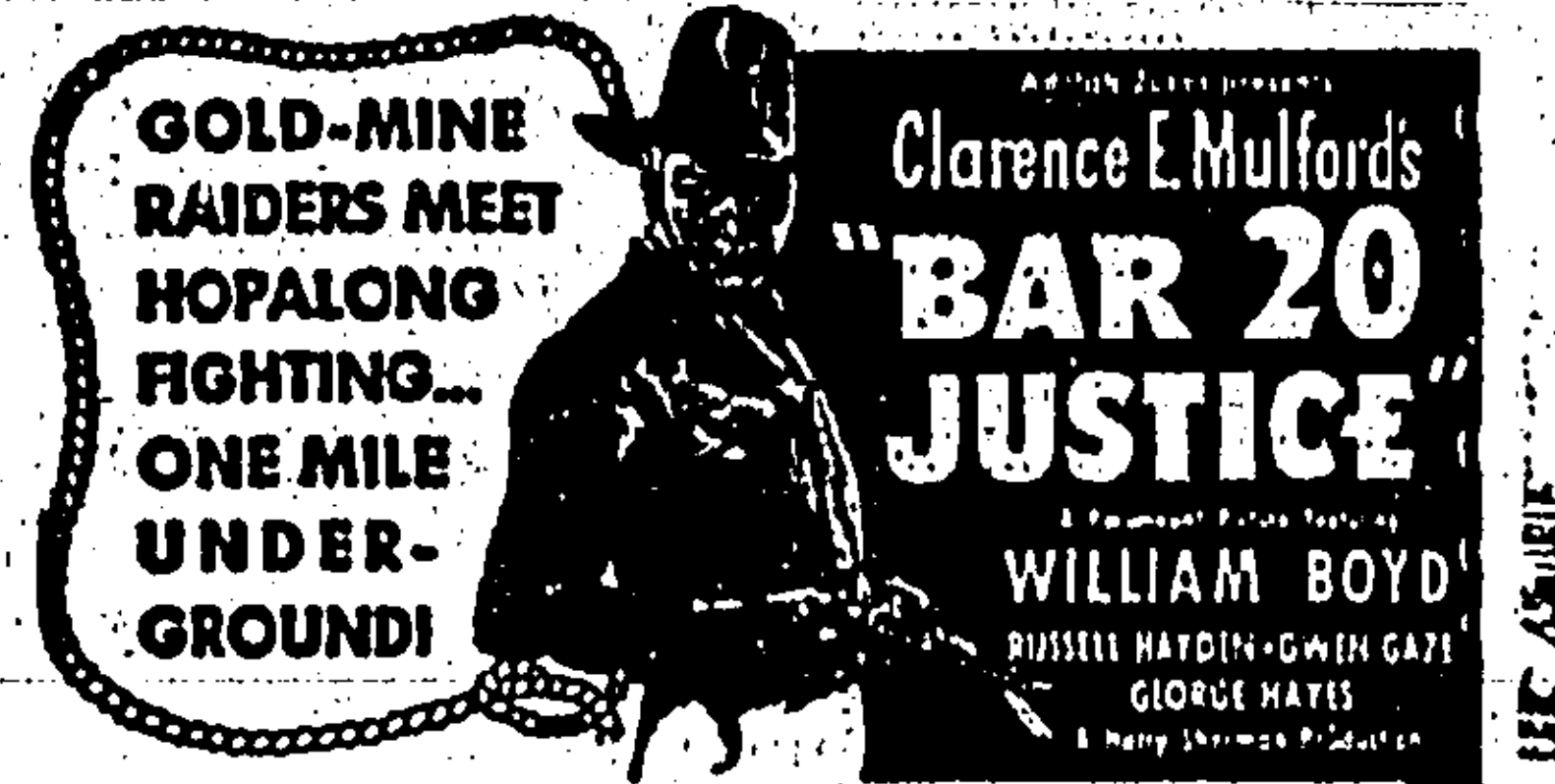
Bardia with unflagging speed. Behind them and trying to keep up with them is a continuous stream of infantry, riding in captured lorries and trucks.

Free French forces, which are right in the front line, are giving valuable support to the Imperial troops. They showed great courage and dash in the final onslaught against Sollum.

Although French Army tactics are very different from the British, months of hard training have produced a splendid fighting unit. They are working in excellently with their British comrades.

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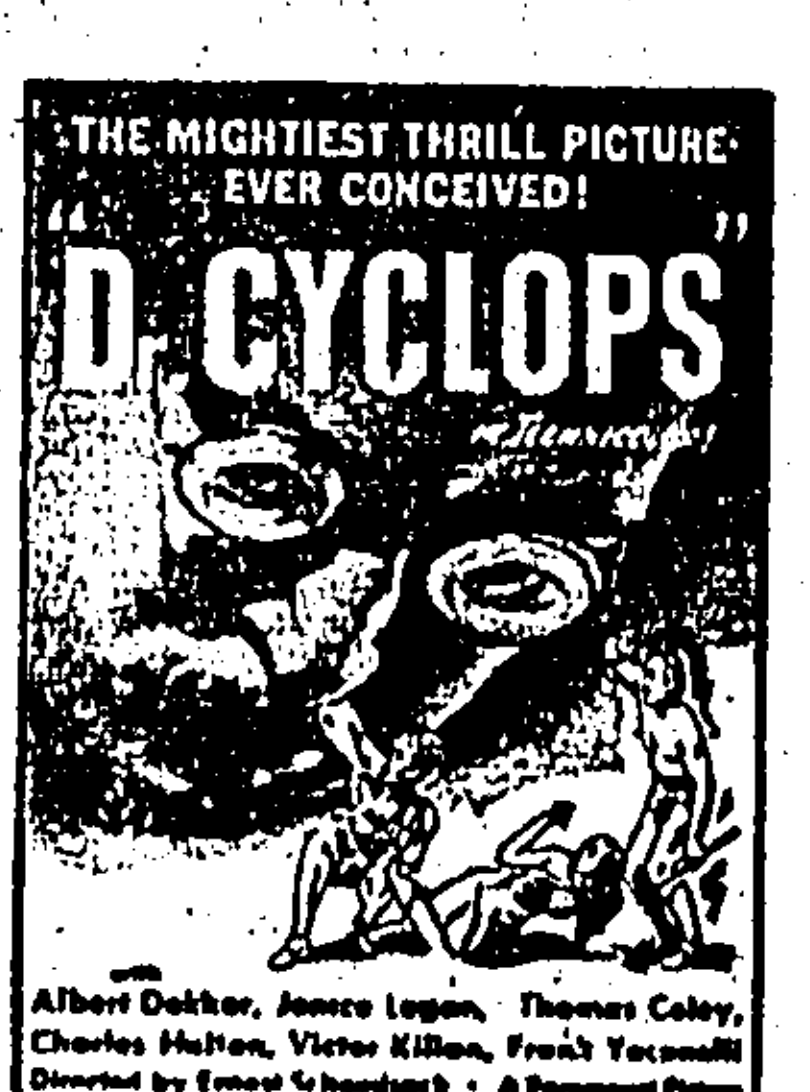


TO-MORROW
JANE WITHERS in "SHOOTING HIGH"

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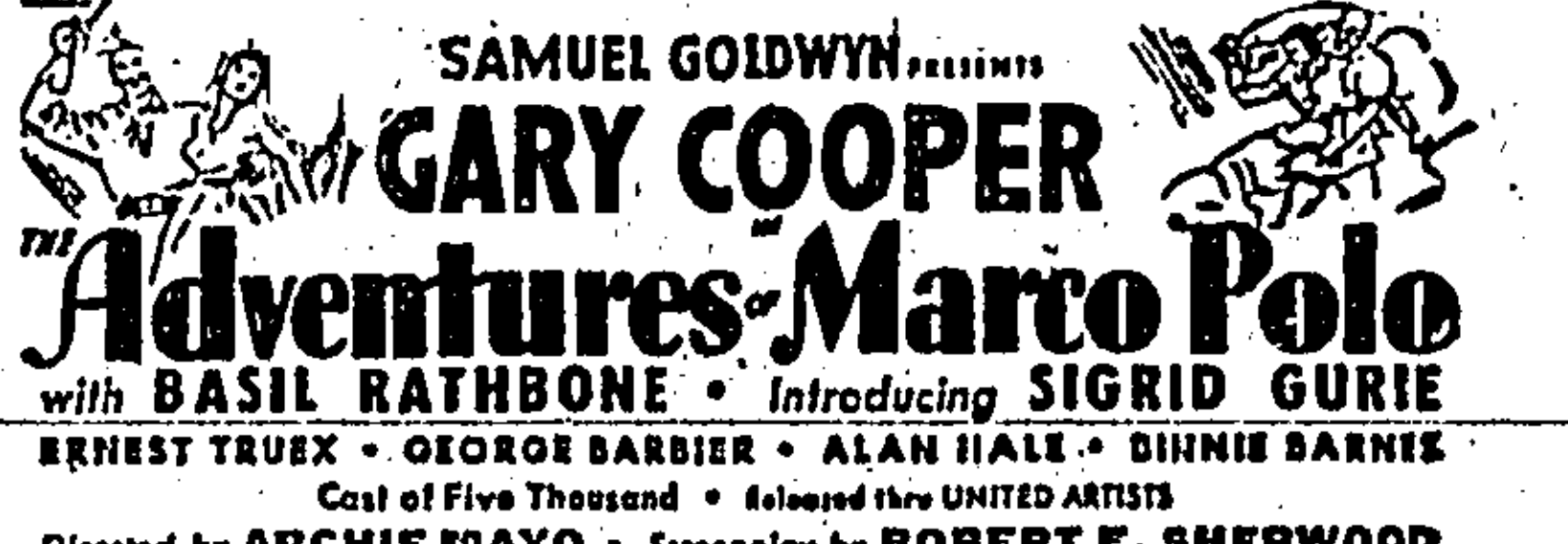
To-day & To-morrow

Starts FRIDAY



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TO-MORROW "THE EX-MRS. BRADFORD" Joan Arthur William Powell
FRI. SAT. "MEXICAN SPITFIRE" with Lupe Velez
"SPOILS OF CONQUEST" March of Time

Britain In Arms Till Europe Is Freed
BARDIA BLASTED

FROM PAGE ONE
December 15, says the R.A.F. Headquarters.

At the former place, a large fire was started. Enemy fighters damaged one R.A.F. bomber, which, however, managed to return to British territory.
At Asmara, a factory and transport park were bombed. Enemy bombers raided Port Sudan these suggestions but not with four times but no damage was caused sufficient authority to justify any either to R.A.F. property or to per-statement by the British Government, counsel.

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BRITISH ADVANCE IN LIBYA GOES ON WITH TREMENDOUS IMPETUS

CAIRO, DEC. 17 (REUTER).—THE BRITISH ADVANCE CONTINUES, WITH TREMENDOUS IMPETUS, BRITISH TROOPS HAVE PENETRATED THE LIBYAN FRONTIER, DRIVING THE ENEMY FROM EGYPTIAN SOIL.

THE ALMOST INCREDIBLE SPEED OF THE ADVANCE MAY HAVE GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ITALIANS ARE NOT RESISTING. THIS IS NOT TRUE.

7-HOUR RAID ON NAZI TOWNS

Destructive Work By R.A.F.

Special to the "Telegraph"

LONDON, Dec. 17 (UP).—The Air Ministry announced this evening that long-range British bombers for seven hours last night, made raids on Mannheim and Ludwigshafen, which is a suburb of Mannheim, where an aniline dye factory, one of the largest in Germany, was set afire.

BARDIA BLASTED

R.A.F. Ranges Far Into Libya

CAIRO, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—All enemy aerodromes between Tobruk and Bardia in the Western Desert of Egypt were heavily raided by R.A.F. bombers on Monday, states a communique from the R.A.F. Middle East Headquarters.

Fighter planes maintained constant offensive patrols throughout the day.

Bardia suffered a further intensive raid on Monday night in excellent weather. Altogether more than 12 tons of bombs fell on barracks, military buildings and railways. One particularly fierce blaze as well as other fires were started.

Tobruk, Bomba, Berna, El Adem, El Gubbi and El Gazala were attacked heavily and damaged.

Italian Air Losses

During an offensive patrol, R.A.F. fighters shot down eight Italian aircraft and possibly a further two. Another Italian aircraft was destroyed while landing and a general purpose plane was shot down.

These enemy losses are additional to the 15 Italian aircraft captured near Sollum.

There were no British losses during these Western Desert operations.

Durazzo Also Bombed

CAIRO, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—The R.A.F. Middle East Headquarters announced that in Southern Albania Durazzo was heavily raided despite bad weather.

Heavy explosions were caused in

Bombs were also dropped on the railway yards at the port of Mannheim and along the banks of the Rhine.

Whole Area Ablaze

"A particularly heavy explosion was observed at Neckarstadt, another suburb of Mannheim. By 3.30 a.m. the whole target area was a mass of flames.

"The town of Speyer, south of Mannheim was attacked, and aircraft factory buildings were hit.

"Other planes dropped heavy bombs on the submarine base at Bordeaux.

"The R.A.F. attacked several aerodromes during daylight yesterday and also hit six merchant vessels off the French coast. After the attack, one vessel was observed to be listing to port and another was set afire.

"Four of our aircraft are missing."

Nazis Confess To Raids

BERLIN, Dec. 17 (UP).—It is officially announced that in the R.A.F. raids on Mannheim and elsewhere last night, ten civilians were killed and 50 wounded.

Vichy Talks Last 3 Hours Laval Is Released

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

BERLIN, Dec. 17 (UP).—The official German news agency's correspondent at Vichy reports that M. Laval participated during the last half-hour of the conversations between Marshal Petain and Herr Otto Abetz.

The talks lasted for more than three hours, after which Marshal Petain had luncheon with Herr Abetz.

No Longer Detained

VICHY, Dec. 17 (UP).—It is officially announced that Marshal Petain received M. Laval at 8.20 a.m. and discussed the general situation. At the request of Herr Abetz, M. Laval is no longer being detained by the officials.

The divisions captured in all stages were taken owing to the superb leadership of the Imperial Command. They had no time and no chance to offer resistance but reliable reports from the wounded, who had been fighting near the Egyptian frontier, go to show that the Italians who had had ample time to prepare their defences, had been fighting with the greatest bravery.

The capture of "Hellfire" Pass, one of the key-points of Italian resistance against fierce enemy fire, was an operation which largely contributed to the latest British successes. Here the enemy, in cunningly prepared machine-gun posts in the side of the escarpment, held a tactical advantage. They poured a withering fire into our advance units.

Credit To Former Cavalry

At the same time our mechanised forces roared on, battering down the fire fence marking the frontier and, forging ahead after some very grim fighting, they silenced the guns of Port Capuzzo.

Much of the credit for the success of the offensive must go to our advanced mechanised units, composed of a famous cavalry regiment which has been operating unceasingly day and night in the Western Desert for the last five years and knows every inch of the ground.

A significant point in the opinion of high military experts at G.H.Q. is the capture of a number of enemy aircraft on the ground. This is held to denote, firstly, the acute shortage of aeroplane fuel; secondly, the formidable swiftness of the attack by the advanced mechanised units; thirdly, the terrible weather, turning aerodromes into mud and making take-off difficult and even impossible.

May Loan Britain More Armaments

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (UP).—President Roosevelt today revealed that the United States is considering the building of additional armaments, and either loaning or leasing them to Britain.

U.S. Best Defence

President Roosevelt said that since the best defence of Britain was the best defence for the United States, American armaments would be of greater value if Britain uses them, instead of them being stored in the United States.

The President said he believed it would be banal to discuss additional dollar loans or gifts to Britain; however, the leasing or selling as a matter of mortgage was a possible solution to the question of aiding Britain.

War Expenditure

LONDON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—Britain's daily war expenditure last week was £11,400,000. This was a drop of more than £4,000,000 over the previous week's expenditure.

More Libyan Forts Captured

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

CAIRO, Dec. 17 (UP).—A general headquarters communique, issued this evening, says that British forces on Monday captured the Libyan frontier forts of Musala, Sidomar and Shefferzen.

The communique adds: "Fighting continues in the Bardia area where our pressure on the enemy is steadily increasing, as new forces arrive.

"In the northern frontier district, the cessation of the rainy period has enabled us to re-commence the offensive, patrolling on a considerable scale. On the Southern frontier the situation is unchanged."

Severe Fighting

CAIRO, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—Very severe fighting is raging round the Libyan port of Bardia, according to the latest reports received here tonight.

After battering their way across the desert, British advance mechanised units are carrying out a formidable attack on the perimeter defences of the port.

Advanced forces of British infantry are following up the mechanised units

TURN to Back Page, Column 5

LATEST

AUSSIES IN ACTION IN WESTERN DESERT



Dominion troops, notably the Australians and New Zealanders are taking a prominent part in the British desert offensive which has carried our troops many miles into Libya. In these two official pictures taken recently we see an Australian convoy making its way through the sand dunes of the Western Desert, and below, an Australian battery of heavy artillery.

Greeks Drive Toward Valona: Vuna Taken

Special to the "Telegraph"

STRUGA, Dec. 17 (UP).—Frontier reports state that Greek artillery this morning heavily shelled the town of Kilsura, setting fire to the eastern sector.

SHIPPING LOSSES

"Rather A Bad Week"

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

LONDON, Dec. 17 (UP).—The Admiralty has announced amended figures of shipping losses for the week ended midnight December 17, showing total losses of 81,658 tons, of which 50,858 were British.

Shipping losses were over double the figure for the previous week and included 19 British ships. The total British-Allied losses were 23 ships of 101,120 tons of which three were Allied vessels.

This is regarded as a "rather bad week" and it is explained that a good proportion of the losses were caused by one particularly bad day. The average weekly loss during the war, excluding the operations at Dunkirk, is now 63,192 tons.

Windsor Willing To Be Ambassador

MIAMI, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—The Duke of Windsor told a press conference today that he had not asked for the appointment as successor to Lord Lothian at the Embassy in Washington, but added: "I would certainly accept it if I thought it to be to the best interests of the two countries."

The Duke and Duchess of Windsor left for Nassau at 10 p.m. today in the yacht Southern Cross.

CHUNGKING, Dec. 18 (Central News).—A total of U.S.\$50,000 has been pledged by the Chinese in support of the U.S.A. in support of the Chinese Airplane Fund Campaign.

FINANCIAL AID IS NECESSARY

Britain Appeals To U.S.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (UP).—The Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Henry Morgenthau, told the House Appropriations sub-committee today that British Treasury officials had informed him that Britain cannot order additional war supplies from the United States unless financial aid is assured.

Speed Becomes Urgent

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—The urgent need of speeding up American war production and granting Britain increasing and more rapid aid have become paramount questions in Washington. President Roosevelt, back at the White House after his return from his West Indies tour, was greeted by newspaper headlines reducing the grave concern over the position and stressing the terrible urgency of the situation.

Must Have Money

The latest development today was reported to be a statement by Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury, to the House.

TURN to Page 2, Column Six

\$3,000,000 For H.K. Air Raid Shelters

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council will, at its meeting tomorrow, be asked to approve of supplementary expenditure amounting to \$3,258,557.

Of this \$3,000,000 is earmarked for A.R.P. tunnelling and other civil defence work.

It is explained that it has been decided to put in hand certain measures, such as the construction of tunnels, concrete pens, etc., for the protection of the civil population against air attack, and a sum of \$1,000,000 has already been voted for this purpose in a previous Finance Message.

The Finance Committee has also agreed informally to the appropriation of a further \$2,000,000 before the end of the current financial year and to the provision of further funds in the Estimates for 1941-42 in order to complete the programme which is envisaged may be carried out as early as possible.

Work on the construction of tunnels has progressed more speedily than was anticipated, and as it is considered desirable to press on with the tunnelling without disturbing the present allotment of funds for other types of protection, it is proposed to earmark a further sum of \$1,000,000 for this purpose during the current financial year, and to reduce the provision to be made in the 1941-42 Estimates accordingly.

Beaverbrook Warns Britain Of New Nazi Invasion Plans

Special to the "Telegraph"

LONDON, Dec. 17 (UP).—Lord Beaverbrook, Minister of Aircraft Production, in a broadcast to-day warned that the "enemy is making preparations for an invasion of Britain even before spring."

He said that invasion would be made by land and sea, but principally by air.

He predicted that Britain would receive 25,000 planes from the United States during 1942 when, he declared, the famous 3,000 per month plan will be realised.

Lord Beaverbrook revealed that

American planes are coming to Britain in increasing flow.

"Very many of them are fine types of fighting planes of excellent quality, some of them are equal to the best we produce here. For example, there is the Curtiss P-40. It is good for a straight war job. It flies easily and the engine is reliable. In performance and speed, it is the equivalent of the Spitfire, which I think is very good."

Lord Beaverbrook revealed that a

new type of fighter plane, the "Whirlwind" has been successfully used.

He said that the output of aircraft and engines in Britain from August to November inclusive was double that of last year, despite the bombings.

Three-Legged Stool

According to "Houlter," Lord Beaverbrook declared that Hitler is a

TURN to Back Page, Column 3

See Back Page For Further Late News

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

25 words \$2.50
for 3 days prepaid

FOR SALE.

THOROUGHbred Scottish terriers. Entire proceeds to the Bomber Fund. Can be seen anytime after Wednesday, December 18, at No. 1 Robinson Road—Mrs. Petro.

"HONGKONG AS REVEALED BY THE CAMERA" Second Edition. Over 60 excellent views of the Colony. Price \$1.50. Obtainable at Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Hongkong Travel Bureau or from the Publishers South China Morning Post, Ltd., Wyndham Street.



ENVOY—Alexander Kirk, former charge d'affaires in Berlin, who is being sent by President Roosevelt to relieve Ambassador William Phillips in Rome. Mr. Phillips is ill and desires to resign, according to report. Mr. Kirk formerly lived in Rome about 10 years.

RADIO

ZBW, 355 metres (845 k.c.) and 31.49 metres (9,520 kilo-cycles)

Father Ryan On "British Dramatists"

Broadcast by Z. N. W. on a frequency of 845 k.c. and on Short Wave from 1-2.15 p.m. and 8-11 p.m. on 9.52 m.c.s. per second.

12.30 Betty Driver (Vocal) and George Scott Wood's The Six Swingers.

1.00 Local Time Signal and Weather Report.

1.03 Billy Mayerl at the Piano.

1.15 Victor Silvester and His Ballroom Orchestra.

1.30 Reuter and Rugby Press, Weather Forecast and Announcements.

1.45 Dvorak—Quartet in E Flat Major, Op. 51.

1.50 Lerner String Quartet.

2.15 Close Down.

6.30 Closing Local Stock Quotations.

6.32 Compositions of Brahms.

7.00 London Relay—The News.

7.15 London Relay—Questions of the Hour.

7.30 London Relay—The Lusitania Boy Variety.

8.00 Local Time Signal, Weather Report and Announcements.

8.03 A Programme of Early English Music.

8.30 Studio—"British Dramatists" No. 4: Sheridan.

Talk by Father T. Ryan, S.J.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

M.V. "HOEGH TRANSPORTER"

On instructions from the Underwriters, Tenders are invited for the Single Screw Motor Vessel "HOEGH TRANSPORTER" as she lies submerged in her damaged condition in Singapore Roads.

The vessel is of the Shelter Deck type designed for a carrying capacity of 9,000 tons and fitted with Diesel Machinery.

A large part of the cargo has been removed from the vessel.

Tenders should be forwarded to the undersigned not later than 31st December, 1940, who will supply any further information available.

The highest, or any, tender may not necessarily be accepted.

RITCHIE & DISSETT,
Union Building,
Singapore.

NOTICE

DEFENCE REGULATIONS 1940

The following rates will be charged for mailing single copies of the following newspapers abroad:—

South China Morning Post
China and Macao
16 cents per copy

British Empire and Foreign
25 cents per copy

The Hongkong Telegraph
China and Macao
14 cents per copy
16 cents Saturdays

British and Foreign
20 cents per copy
25 cents Saturdays.

FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

What to do to help a child

Anyone knowing of a child who has been assaulted, neglected, or ill-treated in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to health, or knowing of a parent who is seeking advice on any matter concerning a child, would be doing an act of kindness by communicating at once with—

The Hon. General Secretary,
H.K.S.P.C., Old City Hall.
The Inspector, 49, Pokfulam Road, St. John.

The Inspector, 82 Stone Nullah Lane, 2nd Floor.

The Inspector, 12, Sai Yeung Choi St., Kowloon.

The Inspector, 52, Argyle St., Kowloon.

All further steps will be taken, and expenses borne, by the Society.

The Informant's name will be kept strictly private, except in cases where malice is proved.

Three applications for licences had been refused by the Urban Council. It was stated by the Chairman, the Hon. Mr. W. J. Carr, at the fortnightly meeting yesterday.

The applications were for a restaurant licence for 400 Shanghai Street, ground floor, a laundry licence for 110 Electric Road, ground floor, and a milk shop for 49 Sing Wo Road, ground floor.

The Chairman announced that as he was going on short leave he would not be present at the next meeting.

Licences granted by the Council between December 3 and December 10 totalled seven, comprising five for swine, one for a food shop and one for an eating house.

Those present at the meeting were the Hon. Mr. W. J. Carr (Chairman), Dr. N. C. MacLeod (Vice-Chairman), the Hon. Mr. H. J. Pearce, the Hon. Mr. R. A. C. North, the Hon. Mr. C. G. Perdue, Mr. F. C. Hall, Mr. L. C. F. Bellamy, Mr. A. el Arculli, Mr. B. Wong Tape, Mr. Tang Shiu-kin, Dr. A. M. Rodriguez, Mr. Li Tse-jong, Mr. C. J. Roe (Secretary) and Mr. Im Ping-tseung (Assistant Secretary).

BANKS

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The Bank's Head Office in London undertakes Executor & Trustee business and claims recovery of British Income Tax overpaid, on terms which may be ascertained at any of its Agencies or Branches.

D. DENSON, Manager

Sea War Library Service

Ninety thousand books and magazines have been distributed among 3,000 ships by the Sea War Library Service, Selwyn House, Endsleigh Street, W.C.1. The collection has been assisted by librarians throughout Britain, who have encouraged people to give books to be forwarded to the depositories.

During the next twelve months more books will be needed, and more money required for buying new books on a larger scale. The committee speak with confidence in their first annual report that their activities will bring them the continued support they will need to enable the Service to carry on with the provision of literature for Merchant Seamen.

After they were safely aboard and a final search had been made, the pilot resumed his patrol and handed over the prisoners at the end of the day.

On the return journey to the base, he sighted yet another submarine on the surface.

This machine-gunned, as he had no bombs left. After the second attack the submarine crash-dived.

Although in the open sea, and in the face of an approaching storm, Flight-Lieut. Campbell alighted, taxied his flying boat among the wreckage and saved four of the submarine's crew.

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PRINCE IS 5—Despite the menace of Hitler's airman, Prince Edward celebrates his fifth birthday, with his parents, the Duke and Duchess of Kent, and sister, Princess Alexandra.

"Dead-Eye Dick" Sank 2 U-Boats In 2 Days

AN R A F pilot sank two Italian submarines in two days. He is Acting Flight-Lieut. William Weir Campbell, and his exploits have won him the D.F.C.

He has also gained a nickname. His colleagues now call him "Dead-Eye Dick." He destroyed the two submarines with bombs and attacked another with machine-gun fire, says the Air Ministry News Service.

The first was sunk by dive-bombing.

There were two bursts abaft the conning-tower, and immediately the nose of the submarine rose sharply out of the water. The hull slid back vertically to the bottom.

Air bubbles and oil at once appeared on the sea.

The tail-gunner reported seeing debris floating in the area for some time after the bombs had burst.

Next day the same flying-boat sighted an Italian submarine on the surface. Again "Dead-Eye Dick" dived to attack. He seared direct hits beside the conning-tower.

Saved Four

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Financial Aid Is Necessary

Continued From Page 1

Treasury, to the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee to the effect that Sir Frederick Phillips, the British Treasury official, had told him that England could make no more commitments for the purchase of war materials in the United States unless financial aid was extended.

Mr. Morgenthau is said to have repeated a statement which he has already made on other occasions that he believed that the United States would not extend loans or credits unless Congress modified or repealed the Johnson Act. He left his hearers with the impression that such a decision was entirely up to Congress.

Mr. Morgenthau is reported to have made a factual analysis of Britain's needs, entirely up to Congress, making any recommendations.

Crisis In Spring

Concurrently came a report that Mr. Cordell Hull, the Secretary of State, has told members of the United States Defence Commission and other Government officials that Britain would probably face a serious crisis in the spring unless the present delivery schedules of United States war supplies were considerably increased.

He is understood to have urged all speed possible in producing planes and other supplies.

At the same time it is learned that the shipping situation is being examined to determine whether additional merchant tonnage might be available for sending supplies to Britain.

Suggestions Made

The "Washington Post," in a double-column leader under the heading "Call To Action," declares that all the President's vast reserves of vitality will be drawn upon to cope with the problems of national defence.

Turning to the question of financial aid, the paper suggests that apart from repealing the Johnson Act, there are many ways of assisting, including paying more than market value for raw materials from the Empire, buying consumer interest in sources of those materials, and buying an equity interest in British oil and other holdings in the Western Hemisphere.

Legal Details

President Roosevelt said that the plan was still being studied from the legal viewpoint. Whether title to planes, guns and ships which might be sent to Britain under the plan would remain with the United States or would be vested with the British was a legal problem, but the President indicated that this was a more detail incidental to the main intention to assure Britain of a continual flow of supplies.

The President made clear that the whole matter would be handled on the basis that it was necessary to assist the British in the war as a means of protecting the United States.

Referring to the question of speeding up domestic production, the President said that British orders were good means of obtaining the necessary expansion.

Neutrality Not Affected

While legislation would undoubtedly be necessary, President Roosevelt said that his plan, which was described as the "latest phase of the programme to give England all aid short of war," would not repeal the Neutrality Act.

Declaring that he had read a "great deal of nonsense" recently about financial aid to Britain, President Roosevelt said that within the memory of man, no major war had ever been won or lost through lack of money. He criticised the idea that money in the bank was necessary to win this war. The President described as narrow-minded the view that the only way to assist Britain was to repeal laws so that money could be lent to Britain to spend in the United States. He said that "outright cash gifts might come but he was not at all sure that they were necessary."

Orders Are Asset

The President said that orders from Britain were a tremendous asset because they resulted in creating additional facilities for factories, munition works and shipyards.

He added that the new plan had been under consideration for three or four weeks and that it was one of several that might be devised. Because British orders were essentially for the same kind of munitions as used by American forces, it was possible to convert them into American orders. The President said "we have enough money for that."

He expressed the belief that Britain will be able to pay for the orders already given in the United States and the new arrangements need apply only to future contracts.

IMMIGRATION LAW

At the monthly meeting of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce yesterday it was decided to ask the Government to extend the period for the enforcement of the Immigration Law to February 14, in view of the Chinese New Year on January 27, when there will be an increased number of travellers.

POST OFFICE

Small Packet Post to all countries suspended.

INWARD MAILS

Calcutta, Straits and Air Mail by "British Overseas Airways Service" (except London) by Sea from Singapore, Dec. 18.

Air Mail by "British Overseas Airways Service" by sea from Singapore, Dec. 19.

Calcutta and Straits, Dec. 21.

Australia and Manila, Dec. 22.

Air Mail by "Pan American Airways Direct Service"—San Francisco, date, 17th December, Dec. 24.

Canton, Dec. 24.

London and Straits, Dec. 24.

London and Straits, Dec. 25.

U.S.A., Honolulu and Manila (San Francisco, date, 3rd Dec.), Dec. 26.

U.S.A., Honolulu, Japan and Shanghai (San Francisco date, 6th December), Dec. 26.

Calcutta and Straits, Dec. 27.

Java and Manila, Dec. 27.

Swatow, Dec. 28.

Sandakan, Dec. 29.

London and Straits, Dec. 31.

OUTWARD MAIL TIMES

Registered and Parcel Mail are closed 15 minutes earlier than the time given below unless otherwise stated, and where mails are advertised to close before 8 a.m. registered and parcel mails are closed at 5 p.m. on the previous day. When mails are advertised to close after 5 p.m., Registered and Parcel mails are closed at 5 p.m.

Shanghai, Japan, Honolulu, U.S.A., Central and South America and United Kingdom via San Francisco.

K.F.O.

Reg. Dec. 18, 5 p.m.

Ord. Dec. 18, 5.30 p.m.

G.F.O.

Reg. Dec. 18, 5 p.m.

Ord. Dec. 18, 7 p.m.

Manila, Ceylon, India, East and South Africa and United Kingdom.

K.F.O.

Parcel Dec. 18, 5 p.m.

Reg. Dec. 18, 5 p.m.

Ord. Dec. 18, 5.30 a.m.

G.F.O.

Parcel Dec. 18, 5 p.m.

Reg. Dec. 18, 5 p.m.

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By Walt Disney

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Tiger Standish, ace of British secret agents, meets

THERE WAS THE SOUND OF A SNORT. "But the devil of it is," complained Sir Barker Bellamy, bitterly, "that I am being held directly responsible! As though my Department had to act as nursemaid for every chit of a child who wants its bottom smacked!"

Tiger Standish, who had dropped in to make his daily report, looked at his superior officer, Y.I., that branch of British Intelligence which was concentrating on counter-espionage work, was being kept pretty busy these days, but he felt a certain amount of sympathy for Bellamy as the latter poured out his plaint. Later, he was due to transfer that sympathy from his superior to himself—but at the moment this knowledge was mercifully hidden from him.

So it was that he lightly put the question: "What are you 'bell-nehing' about now, you old buzzard?"

Bellamy sighed as though in all the world he could not find an understanding soul.

"You've heard of Blanca Tedworth, I suppose?" his tone now sardonic.

"Well, I'm not quite blind in both eyes yet—you mean the wench who was pulling up to the Nazi bosses until quite recently."

"That's the one. She's the daughter of Lord Bevington. Headstrong as a wild colt. Got smitten with this Hitler-Youth bug and was willing to throw up everything, including her nationality, in order to lend a hand in the movement which was to regenerate the world. Excuse me for a moment while I spit."

Having done this office, Bellamy continued: "There's nothing very much wrong with the girl fundamentally, I suppose—but, as I say, she ought to have had her bottom smacked at intervals from the age of seven upwards. That would have taught her sense. She's nineteen now, by the way. As you know, she's only just been able to get out of Germany; the Nazi bosses, including Himmler, Chief of the Gestapo, thought she might have a dangerous influence on her former pal, whose name need not be mentioned, and so, at the outbreak of war, they played safe and popped her into a concentration camp. Not one of the worst ones, it's true, but sufficiently bad to cure the fair Blanca of her former besotted infatuation. Last week, owing to the influence of the American Embassy in Berlin (who, of course, are looking after British affairs now) she was released. The authorities, after the ballyhoo tripe of the Mifflid girl, were not going to take any chances; consequently there were no reporters, no news-reel operators, and no publicity whatsoever when Blanca Tedworth landed in Folkestone four days ago."

Standish, putting up a huge hand to his mouth, did his best to hide a yawn.

"How many more instalments, B?" he enquired. "Only two—and they're both very short. The first is that the girl has disappeared, and the second is that you've damned well got to find her."

Tiger bounded up from his chair.

"Well, that's a nice thing to say!" he cried indignantly. "Haven't you got anything better to do than to send me scuttling round after a chit of a child?"

Bellamy took his time to light the short, black pipe which he had just filled with evil-looking plug tobacco. "I thought you'd say that," he replied amiably, "but if it's any consolation to you to know it, this is a very important job of work."

"It's a job for the police!"

"No," he was uncompromisingly informed, "it's a job for Y.I. And you're the man to do it—there's no one better."

Tiger began to fume afresh.

"Where do we come into it?" he retorted.

"Principally because our agent, Y.27, was able to see the Tedworth girl just after she crossed the German frontier, and being hard-pressed, gave her the plans of an entirely new raiding bomber about which the Nazis do not want anything known. You remember that business over Belgium the other day?"

"You mean when a German plane shot down two Belgian fighters?"

Bellamy nodded.

"Yes. Those fighters were shot down because the pilot had had the strictest instructions that in no circumstances whatever was he to allow his machine to be examined by anybody outside Germany—not even by a neutral."

Tiger sat down again and filled his own pipe. This business was becoming more interesting; it was just like Bellamy to hide the truth as long as possible. One result, he supposed, of having spent over thirty years in Intelligence.

"Did she hand over the plans?" he asked.

"This time Bellamy shook his head.

"When I said just now that she landed at Folkestone it was more or less a figure of speech. I should have said she was supposed to land at Folkestone. The truth—or what at the present time must pass for the truth—is that when her father, Lord Bevington, went to meet her at the landing-stage, he found no one amongst the passengers who corresponded in the slightest degree to his daughter."

Tiger whistled.

"Then... what happened?" Bellamy shrugged his shoulders like a weary Titan who finds the weight of his labours intolerable; "all we do know is that a girl resembling Blanca Tedworth got on the boat at Calais. . . . It's up to you to discover the rest, my boy."

"I'm not Sherlock Holmes."

"And I'm certainly not Watson," rejoined his superior, and turned to the papers on his desk.

The certainty wasn't good enough, and Standish voiced his disgust.

"She's probably at the bottom of the Channel—what's the good of sending me off on a wild-goose chase like this? And where the hell do I start, anyway?"

Whereupon Bellamy became as mysterious as though he were playing himself in a sensational film. Going first of all to the door, as though suspecting a possible eavesdropper, he closed the heavy mahogany again, and returned to his seat. After that, he spoke in a whisper for a few more minutes. At the end of that time, Tiger Standish got up and knocked the ashes out of his pipe.

"It looks like one chance in a million," he summed up. "It's the one chance in a million that sometimes comes off, my boy," was the answer he received.

THE COUNTESS OF MITTENDEN HAD LEFT LONDON

(who wants to be blown to bits by those dreadful bombs? How I do hate that man Hitler!) and was residing in her country seat, Nevern Castle, in the county of Sussex.

The move had had its disadvantages. The staff problem, for instance: whilst it was extremely difficult to

THE LADY with the GAUDY PAST

get good servants during wartime in London, it was still more difficult to procure them in the country. The ordinary woman might have managed, but the Countess had her own fixed, and somewhat peculiar, ideas about the servant question: she would employ no one on the male side who was not both young and good-looking. This determination of hers added considerably, of course, to the difficulties of the present situation.

What was more, Nevern Castle was situated in a very lonely part of what has frequently been described as the most delectable county in England. The castle, which dated back to the early 14th century, was not, strictly speaking, built on Sussex land at all; it had been erected, according to history, by a direct descendant of William the Conqueror, who had perched his new home on the very edge of the Sussex cliffs. But the intervening centuries, with the assistance of the sea, had caused serious erosions to take place. With this result: between the mainland and the castle keep, there was now a stretch of over 200 yards of sea, which, for several months in the year, tossed and foamed, shrieked and thrilled, banged and battered against both the cliffs on the mainland and those which surrounded the present abode of the Countess of Mifflid.

The man who was bound for Nevern Castle, there to take up the position of new butler, sat upright in the small boat which acted as ferry. The rustic who propelled the oars looked at him with a kind of shrewd, quizzical interest.

"I 'opes as 'ow you'll like it there, maister," he vouchsafed; "it'll be all right if you keeps on the right side of 'er ladyship. Leastways," with a snigger that might have been the cloak for some secretly amusing thought, "that's what they do say round about 'ere."

By Sidney Horler

"Mind your own business," was the stiffly-uttered comment.

"I was only givin' ye a bit of advice, maister," went on the rustic; "but seeing that his passenger, was in no mood for further converse, he concentrated on his earman-ships and, within a few moments, brought his boat to the castle landing-place.

A few minutes later, John Giles was interviewing his new mistress. The Countess of Mifflid was a woman, and was now able to observe, of perhaps 55 years of age—and a bit 55 at that. As though to fight the ravages of time, her ladyship resorted to a make-up that was not so much elaborate as excessive; her face looked as though one would have to scrape off the paint with a knife before coming to the skin beneath. Her hands, too, were unpleasant—velvety, dead-coloured, with the long, pointed nails looking as though they had been dipped in blood.

"Yes," she said in a hoarse low-pitched voice that grated on her listener's ears, "your references appear to be quite satisfactory, Giles, and when I spoke to the agency this morning, they said that they were sure you would give me good service. I hope you will be very comfortable here, Giles."

Conventional words, but the new butler did not like the smile which accompanied them. He remembered the words of the married old boatman. They were likely, he considered, to become prophetic.

"I hope, too, your ladyship, that I shall give you good service," he replied—but he spoke in German instead of English.

The Countess put one of the claw-like hands up to her mouth. Even so, a sharp cry of mingled surprise and alarm broke from her lips.

"Who are you?" she demanded sharply, one hand now to her breast; "and why do you speak to me in German?"

The new butler did a surprising thing. Instead of replying, he took from his waistcoat pocket a disc that seemed to be made of silver, or some other gleaming metal.

"This is why," he replied, showing it to her. And now his voice held only authority.

IN A DUNGEON FAR BELOW THE ROOM IN WHICH

THIS CONVERSATION HAD TAKEN PLACE, a girl who, but for her modern dress, might well have been a captive of the original owner of Nevern Castle, crouched against the damp wall. She crouched for a very good reason—around her right ankle was a band of steel. Attached to this was a thin, flexible, but very strong chain made of the same metal, terminating in a staple driven well into the 15-foot thick wall.

The girl was Blanca Tedworth.

So bemused was she in her misery that, for many hours now, she had remained practically motionless in that animal-like position. Every vestige of faith that she had had was now gone; she realised that her plight, although pitiable, although, indeed, almost incredible, was hopeless. Chained there like an animal deep down beneath the earth, with no light beyond the storm lantern, whose wick was trimmed from time to time, kept sometimes without food and even without water, she longed for death.

But death seemed still far away. It was her robust strength that kept her alive—and, for the first time since she was born, she cursed her youth!

One of her many troubles was that she could not remember the immediate past; she could recall getting on the cross-Channel boat along with a lot of soldiers coming on leave, at Calais; she could recall going on deck and wearing the uniform of the Tank Corps. It was this officer, talking to two officers, one of whom she remembered, because after all she had gone through, the very sight of a British face made her almost ill with happiness, she had agreed.

They had gone down to the saloon, her companion had ordered a whisky and soda for himself and a coffee for her; she had taken a first sip—and then that awful darkness had come, enveloping her about like a black blanket. . . .

There was nothing between that memory and the infinitely more horrible one of waking up in this dreadful place, which she now knew to be a prison-cell from which there could never be any escape. What had happened to her; where she had been taken; who was responsible for taking her there—all these things were insoluble mysteries. The brutal fact that this was reality and not a nightmare, out of which she might mercifully awake, was sufficient. She wished she were dead.

WITH THE FIRST SOUND OF THE BOLT OUTSIDE

THE DOOR BEING DRAWN, she awoke out of her lethargy, springing to her feet, her captive's chain rattling as she did so.

It was a man who now came into the place; before, it had been women. Two women—one thick-set with a cold, hard, unpleasant face, who looked like a servant of some kind, and then another—a more horrible creature this—because, possibly due to fear of showing her face, she wore a mask. Both these women had frightened her out of her few remaining wits—but neither had induced her to tell the truth. She would not tell the truth—not even if they killed her for it. Because, she felt, this resolve was the only possible reparation she could make to her country for her former foolhardy conduct. Besides, so much was at stake. . . .

The intruder, who was a stranger to her, drew up a three-legged stool, which was one of the few pieces of "furniture" in the dungeon, and regarded her intently.

"Do you want to leave here, Miss Tedworth?" he asked.

"Because if you do, it will be quite a simple matter, you know."

She mistrusted his face just as much as she mistrusted his voice. Like the women before him, he would name his conditions; she knew that.

"You realise, of course, that very quickly I must be found? My father is a very important man in this country."

The man put up his hand, smiling as he did so. "How do you know you are in England, Miss Tedworth? You may still be in Germany."

She shook her head.

"No, I know that's not true."

"Why do you say that?"

"Because if I were in Germany, there would not be all this secrecy—that woman who comes in wearing a mask would be able to show her face."

This time the man's smile was even more odious.

"Perhaps the mask she wears is much more pleasant than the face underneath," he commented. "But we waste time. What did you do with those plans, Miss Tedworth? Tell me that and you shall at least be given a more suitable lodging. You must find this place very damp."

As though to give emphasis to his words, he pulled up his coat collar and shivered. It must, a most realistic bit of acting, but it made no impression on her.

"I tell you what I have repeatedly told those two women—I know nothing whatever about any plans."

He jumped up.

"Why do you lie? It's no use—and it only makes you suffer more. Now, Miss Tedworth, you shall have one last chance. And when I say 'last' I mean it." Again he suited action to words, but this time the piece of pantomime was sinister; putting a hand into his coat pocket, he took out a revolver.

"You are becoming a liability, Miss Tedworth, and so, unless you give me the information I require, you will have to die, I am afraid."

A wan smile spread over her pale face.

"I'm not afraid to die—I want to die," she replied.

"The further words died on her lips; the man opposite her saw her face grow rigid, whilst her eyes seemed to be on the point of falling out of her head.

"What is it?" he asked gruffly.

The reply did not come from the girl; it came from behind.

"Drop that gun—and put up your hands!" said a voice that sounded like an accusing judge; "you have played your last masquerade as a British officer. Ifc Otto Welcs; your famous impersonations as a captain of the Tanks Corps are now at an end. Drop that gun, I tell you."

Even so the Nazi spy would have not his revenge by shooting the girl had not Blanca Tedworth suddenly ducked. The bullet which had been intended for her brain squashed itself against the dripping wall of the dungeon.

The next moment Tiger Standish had leapt on the man from behind and had brought him crashing to the uneven stone floor. The chained girl watched, in mingled fascinated horror and relief, the terrible struggle which ensued.

If the German was strong, Standish was stronger. Moreover, he was fired by a burning sense of anger. That any girl, let alone a girl of Blanca Tedworth's gentle upbringing, should have been treated like that was a slight to the whole British race.

The third blow that he smashed to the Nazi's face completed the job.

THANKS for the flowers, B," replied Standish, "but

after all it wasn't so difficult. After you had given me that tip about the Countess of Mifflid, I made a few enquiries on my own, and discovered that she had been one of the most prominent pro-Hitlerites before the war—a fervent Nuremberger and an even more fervent Munichite.

A lady with a gaudy past in more than one respect. Delving a little deeper into her past, I found that, amongst her many lovers—and during her husband's lifetime, too, naughty girl—was the Baron von Stumm. As you know, B,—or if you don't, you ought to know—the Baron was one of the high lights in pre-Hitler Germany; as a matter of fact he was a big bug in the Intelligence Service. When the Nazis came into power, they took over all the archives of the old Secret Service—and, you may bet, with characteristic German thoroughness, they marked the Countess of Mifflid's name with an X. They decided, of course, that she was very likely to be useful later on.

"How useful she was proved by what I saw in that dungeon at Nevern Castle. She had been warned to expect a visitor, and when an elderly woman, accompanied by a British officer, . . .

Standish waved his pipe as though it were a musical conductor's baton.

"My dear B!" he chided; "where are the brains of yesterday? The 'elderly lady' was Blanca Tedworth, of course."

TURN to Page 7, Column Five



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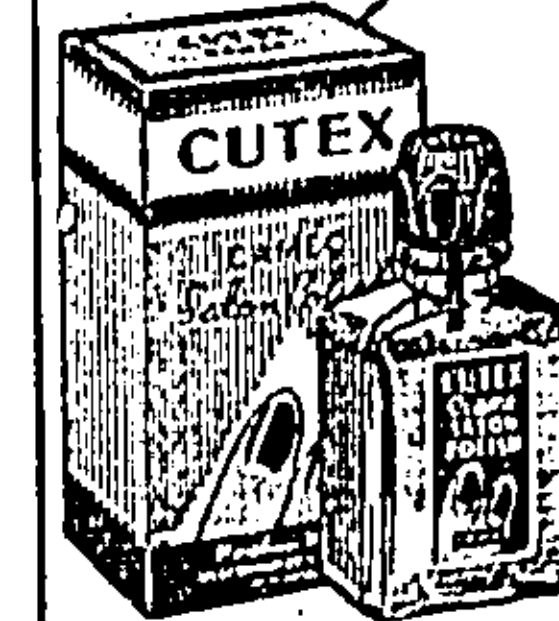
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The
Hongkong Telegraph

Wednesday, December 18, 1940.
Wyndham St., Hongkong
Telephone: 26015

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ENGLAND'S HOMES

MANY people are concerned about the peace terms the world will have after the war. They might also give some heed to another matter of very great importance and one that comes very near to the lives of the people. That is the building and rebuilding of England's homes.

It has happened in the past that for one reason or another building operations have been unduly hurried and conducted for the most part in a haphazard way. At one time it was the urgent demands of the period of industrial expansion all over the country. The ugly and insanitary product has been the shame and regret of subsequent generations. The next period of wholesale building was after the last war, when some of the mistakes of the previous period were repeated.

Now another such building expansion may be in the near future, and it is all-important that the country should profit by experience and do something worthy of Britain. It is not too soon to think and plan, and to further the purposes of the newly appointed Minister of Works and Buildings.

To this end the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects pleads for the early and complete recognition of the function of the trained designer and planner in this reconstruction, so that new dwellings may be made that shall give the fullest possibilities of healthy lives for our people. Unless there is vision and trained skill in planning from the outset there will be the same dreary failures as in the past. Even for the smallest houses there should be the highest available architectural skill.

There will be unlimited opportunities for beauty and utility in design and construction. From the ashes of the cities should arise wisely-planned garden townships where the sun can find its way into the homes of the poorer classes.

All this was said twenty-five years ago, and what came of it? The situation was summed up in the President's few words—the nation trained its architects and then declined to use them. It will be unforgivable if this accusation is allowed to hold good at the end of the present war.

Hitler First Shook Germany Ten Years Ago

A MID such a "furnace-hissing of events" as that in which our common lot has been cast during these latter years it is easy to lose all reckoning of time. I may, perhaps, be permitted to recall the grim and fateful anniversary that fell a few weeks ago; for until that self-same mid-September week in 1930, not one person in a million outside Germany could remember ever having heard so much as the name of the man who to-day imposes his barbaric dominion over four-fifths of the Continent of Europe.

It is true, of course, that the miserable, melodramatic, misbegotten fiasco of Hitler's Munich beer-hall putsch had occupied the headlines for a few brief days in November, 1923; but like Kapp and many other nameless adventurers of that turbulent period, the little Austrian painter had soon relapsed into a total oblivion.

The event which suddenly hurled him like a flashing meteor into the world's ken was the general election of September 14, 1930. Competent observers of the campaign had predicted some increase in the "Fascist" vote—Fascist being at that time the generic term for all people of Hitler's kind—but no one had been prepared for anything like the eight-fold multiplication of the vote, from the 810,000 recorded two years previously to 6,400,000, which raised the Hitlerist representation in the Reichstag from a mere 12 to 107 in a House of 575.

The Alien

At a single bound Hitlerism had leapt up from a contemptible obscurity to second among the swarm of parties which competed for the control of the Weimar Republic. A notable absentee from the embattled ranks of his party in the new Reichstag was Hitler himself, who, as an alien, was disqualified from membership of that assembly.

It is a curious commentary on the methods and mentality of the Weimar Republic that he had never been expelled from the country as an undesirable alien after his arrogant proclamation of himself as "President of the Reich" at the time of his abortive Munich rebellion.

Hitler now became overnight the talk of the world. Newspapers everywhere hastened to devote long articles to his record, attainments and intentions, and speculation both inside and outside Germany was rife as to whether Germany might not be on the eve of another and more formidable Hitler putsch. The street brawling tactics of his storm troopers and the high-flying pretensions of his rhetoric during the campaign had certainly lent some colour to such a possibility.

"A Serious Menace"

Hitler, however, was by now firmly resolved not to let himself be bowled out a second time by premature revolt. He contented himself with an open avowal of his ultimate intention to overthrow the parliamentary regime, but declared that he would employ only parliamentary means in accomplishing his end.

This undertaking, like every other undertaking he has ever made, he eventually broke, but not until February, 1933, when he and his gang set fire to the Reichstag building in order to manufacture an excuse for

A Backward Look at His Early Threats and Promises

proscribing enough of their political opponents to assure themselves the parliamentary majority which appeared otherwise improbable.

Nevertheless, Putsch or no Putsch, his electoral success in September, 1930, caused an immediate and universal uneasiness abroad, which has never ceased to grow from that day to this. As early after the election, the Berlin correspondent of "The Daily Telegraph" was already writing that Hitler's movement must be regarded as portending "a serious menace to the tranquility of Germany, and therefore of Europe."

In the light of what we know now and have learned from the wisdom that comes after the event, that may read to-day like an ironic understatement, but it affords some measure of the apprehension inspired even at that remote hour in the minds of acute political observers.

About 10 days after the elections Hitler gave a comprehensive account of his aims in the course of evidence at a trial in Leipzig of three young

subalterns who were accused of attempting to subvert the army in the interests of the Nazi party. These aims included: inculcating the "martial idea" in the German people, "protecting" Germany and "setting her free" and abolishing the peace treaties. When asked how he proposed to abolish the treaties, he replied, "By diplomatic means, and by the complete evasion of these treaties by legal, and if necessary by illegal, means."

Such were the aims for which Hitler attracted 6,400,000 votes in September, 1930, and many more millions of votes in subsequent years till he was complete master of the Reich—aims the logical and literal fulfilment of which is before our eyes to-day.

The treaties have been evaded by a spectacular series of tricks and perjuries; the "martial idea" has been ingrained in the minds of the whole nation to a degree for which history affords no parallel, and it is being realised that in each of several years preceding the present war the matter of "protecting" and "liberating" the German people.

The question has often been put why millions of Germans should have begun to throw themselves into the arms of Hitler in the autumn of 1930. The answer is simple: they were dupes of German propaganda

have attributed it to the sense of "despair" under which the German nation was alleged to be languishing. The truth, on the contrary, is that at that moment the Germans had the best of reasons for being eminently satisfied with their policy of the preceding six years, the Stresemann policy of so-called "fulfilment."

As the first-fruits of this policy they had secured, under the Young Plan, a reduction of the outstanding capital liability on account of reparations to £1,050,000,000, and an alleviation of the annual payments due under the Dawes Plan. Above all, in consideration of their undertaking to carry out the Young Plan, they had obtained the evacuation of the Rhineland by the French on July 1, 1930, four and a half years before the Treaty date.

Yet at the September elections, less than three months after the Rhineland evacuation, the mood of the German people was already "Thank you for nothing." The success of Hitler was a formal notice served on the world that, with the Rhineland now free of French troops, she was preparing to cheat her way

back into a position where she could resume the pursuit of world domination which had been frustrated by the defeat of 1918.

In the following passage Mr. Edgar Mowrer has well represented the sort of thing Germans were saying to themselves: "Why should they be punished for whatever faults the disowned Imperial rulers might have committed? The German people fought the war in the honest belief that it was defending itself against Western envy and Russian barbarism. What justification could there be for these monstrous and apparently unending reparations?"

Actually, in the six years to 1930 Germany had borrowed from abroad substantially more than she had paid out in reparations, so that during that period she had suffered no real burden at all. Seeing, moreover, that she had incurred not only the whole of her reparation debt but practically the whole of her borrowings as well, it is clear that she has been living very comfortably at other people's expense. Finally, let it be recalled that in each of several years preceding the present war she squandered on armaments more than the whole capital liability for reparations under the Young Plan.

In short, to reimburse the victims of her aggression for part of the damage she had inflicted was ready enough to shoulder a much heavier

burden, in order that she might resume her career of aggression. On the basis of the argument summarised by Mr. Mowrer, we are to suppose that when she has been beaten again and has "disowned" Hitler—as she had disowned the Kaiser and Company—she will have acquired a clean sheet from all the crimes she has committed as his accomplice and will feel entitled to be aggrieved if she is not allowed to go scot free.

What it all comes to is this. About every quarter of a century, or so Germany is to exert a "Herrenvolk's" right to chance her arm at conquering Europe and to slake her bloodlust on any of her neighbours who refuse meekly to submit to enslavement. If she succeeds she is to retain all the prizes of aggression; if she loses she is to suffer none of the penalties, or, if penalties are exacted, we are to be dealt with an ever increasing whine about monstrous injustices, intolerable dilemmas and all the rest of it, and to be enjoined with the plea that in ruthlessly trampling down one neighbour after another, she "honestly" believed she was fighting a war of "liberation" and "self-defence."

Well, Britain and her Allies are going to put an end to this sort of thing once and for all. One of the more famous of Goebbels's lies asserts that we aim to "exterminate" the German people. We intend nothing of the kind. But we are certainly going to hold the German people responsible for all the crimes Hitler has committed on their behalf and with their willing and indeed exulting connivance.

We are going to see to it, in fine, that we and the rest of Europe are well and truly protected for ever more against megalomania which has made Germany a pest to all and sundry for close on half a century past.

Accused Of Shooting Sweetheart

An Army private was accused at Oxford recently of shooting his sweetheart dead after he had found letters from a corporal of her dressing-table.

"While he was waiting for the girl at her lodging in Oxford he found some letters written to her by a Corporal Fuller," said Mr. E. G. Robey, prosecuting.

Private Edward George Beasley (20), of the R.A.S.C., was committed for trial, charged with the murder of Irene Sherry (34), a domestic servant, by shooting her with a Service rifle.

Shot Through Heart
Mr. Robey said that the girl was shot through the heart at close range. He alleged that Beasley said in a statement to the police: "When she came in I produced the letters I had found on her dressing-table and she tried to grab them."

"I said, 'You have not been true to me while I was in the Army. It's time you made up your mind after going with me for seven years. I don't intend you having another man to fool like you have me!'"

Gave Himself Up
"She said she would please herself and laughed and teased it as a joke. I picked up my rifle and pointed it at her as she sat in the chair. "Next thing I heard was a shot. I thought I had missed and I left the house. I wandered about, but in the end I gave myself up."

Women in the New World

By Annie S. Swan

MOST of us remember the poet's tribute to women; I learned it in my youth without comprehending the meaning.

O woman in our hours of ease,
Uncertain company and hard to please;

When pain and anguish ring the brow
A ministering angel thou!

All right, but I am sure the majority of us do not aspire to be angels, nor perhaps could pass the necessary test for that high distinction. We are just ordinary women ready to step into the breach when required.

In the big sorrows and crises of life I have noticed that women stand up to them better than men. They seem to have inexhaustible reserves of courage and even cheerfulness which come surprisingly to the surface in times of stress.

As now, for instance. Where should we be without these reserves showing up so splendidly in hours of darkness and danger?

Certainly without them we should be less well-equipped for what is happening—and what may yet happen.

In the new time coming there will be great and urgent demand for the right kind of homes. Whether as wife, mother or sister or friend, every woman will have to make her contribution to it.

A call, a challenge has been made to the womanhood of this country, and the response has been magnificent.

Let us keep it up so that when the struggle is over we may have every

FUNNY SIDE UP

By Abner Dean



"And of course Waldo never confides his business troubles to me—except when I buy something!"

EXCLUSIVE "INSIDE STORY" OF DRAMATIC DISMISSAL OF LAVAL

Special to the "Telegraph"

The "United Press" in New York has received from confidential sources in Europe the first details of the account of the mysterious removal of M. Laval, Vice-Premier of France, and the dramatic preceding events. The following is written by Mr Joe Alec Morris, Foreign News Manager.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17 (UP).—Marshal Petain bitterly accused Laval of attempting to seize power in defeated France and forced him to write his own resignation in the presence of the Cabinet, "United Press" advices from Europe disclosed today.

The tense scene at the Cabinet meeting in Vichy found the 84-year-old Chief of State standing face to face with the swarthy Vice-Premier who was later detained and was liberated to-day after Herr Abetz, the German special representative, conferred with Marshal Petain.



M. Laval

LIBYAN ADVANCE

Fleet Can Follow
Up Successes

(REUTERS' MILITARY
COMMENTARY)

LONDON, Dec. 17.—With the British capture of Bardia, which may be expected at any moment, the position of all Italian troops, supplies and transport, which must fill that 20 miles of road, is desperate.

The problem which General Sir Archibald Wavell and the British Cabinet now have to solve is how to make the most use of the great victory—can we destroy the Italian Army in Libya and take over the whole colony?

None of Marshal Graziani's supplies can be replaced as Graziani is severed from his main base by British command of the sea.

Besides the very powerful aid which the fleet can give by shelling and bombarding 1,100 miles of the coastal road to Tripoli and intermediate ports, it can enormously aid General Wavell's question of supply by conveying ships into each harbour which falls into our hands as he advances.

Unlike Graziani, the British will not be tied to one road—Sollum is probably available as a supply base by sea to-day—tomorrow it may be Bardia and a few days hence, Tobruk. The movement northwards from Sidi Barrani to Tobruk may have a decisive effect on the next British operation—capture of that port.

The resignation of Laval is revealed to be the climax of a long series of incidents and led Marshal Petain to accuse the Vice Premier of his face in the presence of the Cabinet of attempting to wrest more power not only from the Cabinet but from Marshal Petain himself.

It is understood that Laval desired to take over the now vacant post as Premier. He is also reported to have been seeking power over the Ministry of Interior headed by M. Marcel Peyrou, the secret police and the Ministry of Finance.

Police Search
After his resignation, the Vice Premier's office was searched and the headquarters of the Government in the Hotel Duple were surrounded by a force of new "super" police, the Garde de Protection, recruited from young demobilised soldiers and led by ex-leaders of the "Cagoulard."

In addition to these, there were rows of plain clothes secret police of the Surete National and behind them, rows of Republican Guards—in all, more than 1,000 police.

At 11 p.m. on Friday, Laval's chauffeur was arrested as he stood beside the ousted Vice-Premier's automobile. Eight plain clothes police led by the Chief of the Criminal Police, M. Pierre Mondanel, entered the Hotel and sprinted to Laval's office on the second floor, ripping open the door and entering the office where they notified Laval that he was being taken to a "fixed" residence of his own castle, at Chateau Don, 20 miles south of Vichy.

He was then locked in his castle with his wife and his daughter Jose who is the wife of Count Rene de Chombrun, and for three days armed police maintained lines around the castle.

Flandin Interview
Ten days ago, M. Flandin was called to Vichy by Marshal Petain and was asked if he would succeed Laval if the Vice-Premier quit. Flandin had sounded out the Germans and found that relations would be satis-

factory according to best informed circles.

Early last week, Laval went to Paris to arrange the details of Marshal Petain's return to Versailles. During Laval's absence, the intrigues against him increased swiftly. He either heard of this or guessed it and hurried back to Vichy last Friday, arriving at noon.

He saw Marshal Petain but there was no break at that time.

At 5 p.m. Laval acted as President at the Cabinet Council meeting which lasted two hours and went through the normal routine of business.

At 8 p.m. the Council of Ministers met. When Laval entered the room, he discovered the entire Cabinet there, grouped around Marshal Petain at the end of a long table.

Marshal Petain began his attack at once and accused Laval of attempting to seize more power. M. Laval attempted to explain but Marshal Petain declared that he had lost confidence in his Vice-Premier. Either Laval or Petain must quit, the Chief of State informed him and he asked for Laval's resignation.

The Vice-Premier sat down and wrote his resignation. He then returned to his office at 8.10 p.m.

M. Peyrou had effectively isolated Vichy, ordering all cables, telephones and radio communications to be cut off and placing troops at bridges and railway stations. He then ordered Laval's private car to be unhooked from the midnight train to Paris, the departure of which was cancelled.



Marshal Petain

HAPPY AUSSIES

Activity After A
Long Wait

(REUTERS' AT ADVANCED
HEADQUARTERS)

CAIRO, Dec. 17.—The happiest people in the Western Desert to-day are the Australians. They are now coming into their own.

I spent to-day dashing along the front with some of these bronzed enthusiastic soldiers whose only complaint about this war until now has been that they lacked the chance, as one lieutenant expressed it, "to show our folks that the Anzac of to-day is just as good as his father."

Now they have it. The wave of enthusiasm that these fresh troops are carrying with them into the desert is exactly the tonic needed by those troops who have been fighting continuously for the past ten days, and whose difficulties are naturally increasing as they penetrate farther into enemy territory.

Some of the most cheerful Australians were riding to the front in five-ton lorries captured from the Italians which have been overhauled and are proving a useful addition to the Australian force.

British troops gave them a special cheer as they passed.

CAMPAIGN WORRIES AXIS

—Nazi Style

LONDON, Dec. 17 (Reuters).

Goebbels seems to have made up his mind that British victories exist only in the imagination. He has missed the opportunity to find consolation in the thought that Allied victories in Africa are largely due to the fact that the British used German methods.

The strategy employed at Sidi Barrani, Sollum and Fort Capuzzo and which now menaces Bardia was the strategy that was so successful in Poland and on the Meuse. But there was one great difference in General Wavell's lightning moves compared with those of the Germans—Britain holds the mastery of the seas.

There would be no Dunkirk if the positions had been reversed. It would have been a 100 per cent victory and not a man would have escaped.

Strategy Repeated
At Sidi Barrani, notwithstanding the proportionately small force of British engaged, everybody east of the hammer-blow to the coast was captured. The process was repeated with equal success but with the element of surprise.

Despite the long trek of 400 miles, sandstorms and lengthened communications, it will be surprising if General Wavell is not able to go on repeating the process because he has achieved complete ascendancy in the air, and with Sollum in his possession the possibility of sea transport of supplies becomes practicable.

Overseas Italians in Danger
The Italians are reported to be throwing into Libya every available aircraft in order to restore the balance but they will have difficulty in replenishing their full supplies.

The very vehemence of German and Italian denials confirms the impression that there is serious concern in Rome and Berlin for the fate of all Italy's legions across the waves whether in Libya, Ethiopia, Albania or the Dodecanese.

The situation generally is very favourable and everything can be hoped for.

Cost Of Vehicular Ferry Piers

The maintenance of the Vehicular Ferry Piers at Jubilee Street and Jordan Road is to cost a total of \$30,533 during the current financial year.

The expenditure of \$20,833 has already been approved and to-morrow the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council will have before it a further vote of \$9,700. This is caused by the higher cost of materials and freight and the need for replacing more tendering than could be foreseen. An extensive painting programme is also necessary during the dry season.

NOVEMBER RAIDS CASUALTIES

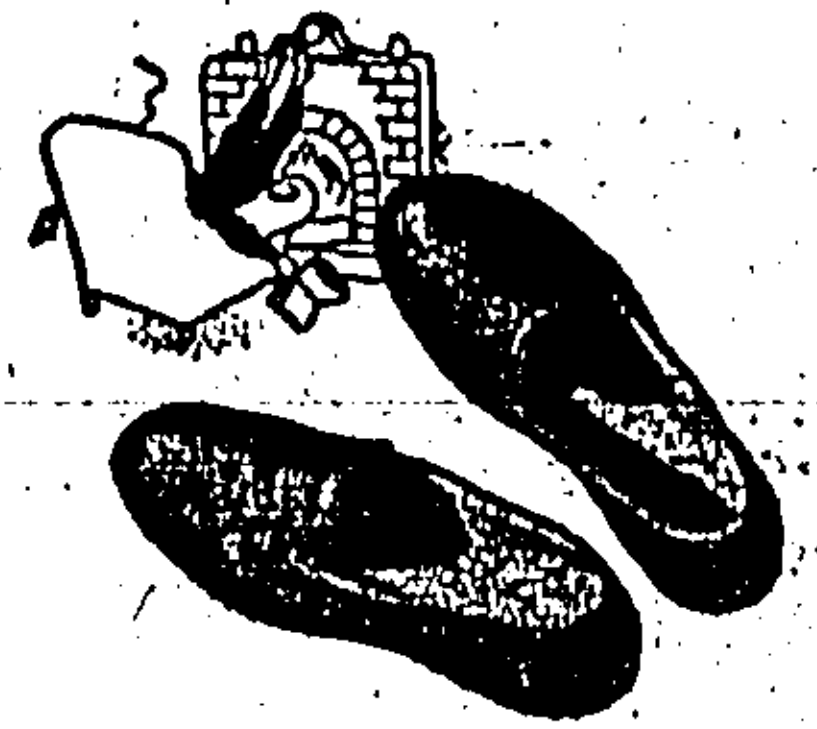
SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"
LONDON, Dec. 17 (UP).—It is officially announced that 4,588 civilians were killed, and 6,202 were injured and sent to hospital throughout the United Kingdom as a result of air raids during November.

It is officially stated that the dead during November comprised 2,200 men, 1,800 women, and 402 children under the age of 10, while the injured included 2,403 men, 2,251 women, and 458 children under the age of 10.

More than 30 German and Austrian refugees arrived in Singapore recently from Siberia via Japan on their way to South America to join their relatives.

Gifts

FOR MEN



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GIVE Suggestions

It's fun to give something out of the ordinary, something the others didn't think of—and here are a few suggestive hints.

1. The Christmas tie joke is out of style—because Wing On's gift neckwear for men offers the latest in style and good taste. There are over hundred different patterns and color combinations from which to choose.
2. Let your gift go up in smoke—in a smart, sociable way. Choose from a grand array of Ronson accessories for the smart smoker—pocket lighters, lighter-cigarette combinations and table and desk lighters and combinations.
3. Outstanding in beauty and dependability as well as value. A Bulova watch is a gift that lasts a lifetime and brings a lifetime of joy and appreciation to whoever receives it.

THE WING ON CO., LTD.

Around The Courses

HANDS AND FEET CO-ORDINATED

Mistakes A Beginner Is Prone To Make

Country Club Competitions

(By "Birdie")

A PLAYER recently remarked that since he'd tried to swing along the lines taught he hadn't been able to hit the ball properly. He was, of course, referring to our friend Ernest Jones and the things he says can be done to a ball by just swinging a club as though it were a piece of string with a weight on the end.

Though one sympathises with this player and the difficulties he faces, it is realised that it all arises out of the quite common practice of many of playing golf before reading about it or taking tuition.

One can, with lots of practice perhaps groove oneself into as perfect a swing as Bobby Jones had, but without fore-knowledge how that swing is achieved one can also groove faults that will take many weary hours to correct.

So many start off with imperfect and hazy versions of how to hit the ball; they may have heard of transference of weight, and rolling and snap of the wrists, and with only the haziest of ideas of how it is done, go out and try to put them into practice.

Invariably they manufacture their own ideas how it is done, and what is more continue with those ideas until the repeatedly peculiar behaviour of the ball convinces them that something is wrong. Now they turn to books and begin to ask advice, and invariably it means attention to one or several things—and they can't hit the ball.

For a beginner, I did read somewhere, that there could be nothing better than to ignore these more advanced phases, especially the transference of weight, and just swing the club from a steady stand.

In this, I might add, for I've tried it myself, that Bobby Jones' very narrow stance is of great help. Place the feet no wider than the width of the shoulders and there is little or no room for transferring weight.

The co-ordination of hands and feet is, one of the most difficult phases of the game.

But there is something—fundamental—that should be learned at the start, and that is the in-and-out swing. One of the sayings of the golf world is "hit in the direction of the slice". The in-and-out swing is (in cricket language) swinging in the direction of mid-off. This tends to hooking the ball and eradicating the slice.

So what I would say to all beginners is read what should be done; learn from someone who knows how it should be done, and then go out and try and do it, but don't work it out on your own.

COUNTRY Club competitions are well under way. Four matches in the Junior Championship and three in the Ladies Cup were played last week-end.

The Junior Championship matches resulted as follows:

A. A. Gutierrez beat C. H. Basto 3 and 1

A. R. Pinna beat T. K. Chow 8 and 6

M. F. Pinna beat C. C. Pereira 5 and 3

Geo. Lee beat A. T. Lee 2 up.

The women's matches were:

Miss A. Sequerra beat Miss M. C. Churn on the 19th.

Miss M. B. Churn beat Mrs. A. G. Botelho 4 and 3.

Mrs. F. E. D'Almada Remedios beat Miss M. B. Churn 5 and 3 (Second Round).

Qualifiers for the Captain's Cup were C. H. Suen and M. F. Pinna.

THE return match between Kowloon and the Country Club is difficult to arrange for competitions make a suitable date hard to find. Kowloon's fixture card is not made up beyond 1940, but the Country Club apparently has no free days before April.

However, something, no doubt, can be fixed up.

Japanese Swimmers To Visit Philippines

Four Japanese swimmers, including Masao Arai, invited by the Philippine sports authorities, are sailing from Kobe aboard the Asahi Maru on December 22. They will be led by Coach Saito, Domes.

Footballers Coping With Air Raid Alarms

LONDON, Dec.—There has been much discussion in soccer circles following raid warnings—and the long intervals which ensue on London grounds while public and players waited for the "All Clear"—as to the best policy to adopt in such situations.

One school of thought would like to see the match abandoned, but Mr. Harris Curtis, the Brentford manager, is firmly of opinion that no matter how long these siren interruptions may last, the Clubs must keep faith with the public so long as the light permits play to be resumed.

There is, however, the time question, and it is thought that the experiment at Griffin Park should meet the situation. Here after the siren has sounded "All Clear" it was arranged that the match should be one of 35 minutes each way.

After the interval, a further 20 minutes were played the same way as the first 15 minutes, and then the players crossed over for a second spell of 35 minutes.

Steps will be taken to prevent players from catching colds and there is no doubt every effort will be made to keep the sport going.—Our Own Correspondent.

"Y" Cricket XI

THE following will represent the European Y.M.C.A. against the Civil Service C.C. "A" XI at cricket on Sunday:

C. Logan, W. H. Ingelby, F. E. Lawrence, W. Gegg, H. Eager, F. Willis, H. Brokenshire, G. Swanson, E. Curtis, H. Eardley and F. Tuckley.

Sir Victor Sassoon At Thai Derby

Bangkok, Dec. 2. Sir Victor Sassoon, who is flying to China, arrived yesterday afternoon and immediately proceeded to the races where he was in time to see the Thai Derby run and later was a guest at the Turf Club's Derby dinner.

AUSTRALIAN SWIMMER FEELS OLD AT 24! William Kendall Retires

FOR TWO REASONS—pressure of work and advancing years (he is 24 years of age)—William Kendall, one of Australia's fastest swimmers has decided to retire.

"I've reached my peak and passed it; it's time I got out," mumbled Bill. "Twenty-four may seem young, but behind it is 12 years of active competition, the last eight as a senior."

In his dry-land hours, Australia's Weltswimmer is a metallurgical chemist. He said that since the war began he had been unable to give the time for the intensive training essential to keep championship form. National and State title swimming has been cancelled because of the war, but Kendall said there was no chance of his reconsidering his decision if the war situation eased. His only swimming would be at patriotic carnivals, and for relaxation.

At Berlin Olympiad

AFTER winning the national sprint championship six years

TRYING TO BREAK THROUGH



Longmuir (Royal Navy) about to make a dash for the Army line during the Navy-Army Quadrangular Tournament rugby match at Causeway Bay last Saturday. Navy surprisingly beat Army, and took the lead in the Tournament Table. —Ming Yuen.

Small Units Rugger League Matches

R. Scots "B" 9 R.A.S.C. 0
Middlesex 6 R. Signals 0

TWO MATCHES in the Army Small Units Rugger League were played yesterday, Royal Scots "B" beating Royal Army Service Corps by 9 points (three tries) to nil, and Middlesex beating Royal Corps of Signals by 6 points (two tries) to nil.

Xmas Day Programme At Cottage Club

THE FIRST ANNUAL Cottage Club paper-hunt for the President's Cup, will be held on the afternoon of Christmas Day, starting from the Club-house. There will be a draw for ponies by members of the Cottage Club at 3.30 p.m. and the hunt will move off at 4 p.m.

The participation of non-members who can provide their own ponies is cordially invited and invitations in this connection have been issued to other hunt and riding clubs. Individual riders will also be very welcome.

LADIES CUP In addition to the President's Cup, which will be presented to the winner of the hunt, there will also be a Ladies' Cup for the first lady home and a cup for the second rider to complete the course.

BOXING DAY A cavalcade has been arranged for Boxing Day morning at 11 a.m. to return at 1 p.m. Ponies will be drawn for at the club.

Play was scrappy in both games. R. Scots "B" were very much the superior to the Service Corps, and Bateman scored the opening unconverted try wide of the posts.

There was very little open play, most of the work being done by the forwards. Shortly before the interval, Sims, a forward, registered the second unconverted try, and in the second half, Mackenzie, another forward, placed the issue beyond doubt with a third unconverted try.

Win For Middlesex

MANY opportunities were thrown away in the second game, in which Middlesex beat the Signals 6-0 after leading 3-0 at half-time. Touch kicking spoilt many a movement.

Capt. Man tied to instigate more open movements, but without avail, though the second try of the match came from such play. The first was by Man in the first half, which was unconverted, and the second, in the second period, was by 2/Lt. Hancock.

Naval Rugby Teams

The following will represent Royal Navy against Club First Fifteen in their Quadrangular Rugby Tournament match on the Navy ground, Causeway Bay, at 4 p.m. on Saturday:

1st XV: Lt. Morahan, S/Lt. McGill, Tel. Honeywell, A/Ldg. Tel. Paul, A/Ldg. Tel. Bowden, M/Lt. O'Brien, Lt. Rutherford, W/Lt. Winter, Lt. Watson (Capt), Sgt. Manfield, P/O. Wright, King, A. D. Longmuir, S/Lt. Bentley, S/Lt. Fox.

Reserves: S/Lt. Kennedy, Cdt. Lambie, LSA Palmer, Lt. (Ed.) Brown, LAC Stockham.

NAVY "A"

The following will represent Navy "A" against Club "A" at Rugby on the Navy ground at 2.45 p.m. on Saturday:

P/Lt. Wright, S/Lt. Kennedy (Capt), A. B. Liley, P/O. Wilson, P/O. Seimser, Cdt. Lambie, A. B. Rest, L. S. A. Palmer, S/Lt. Richards, P/O. Jones, LAC Stockham, P/O. Wright, S/Lt. Carey, Ldg. Sig. Mitchell, M/Lt. Murray-Jones.

Reserves: P/O. Clough, S/Lt. Danger, LAC Grace, A. B. Smith, S/Lt. Sumner, Cdt. Thornhill, S/Lt. Eager.

Club "A" Players

The following will represent Club "A" against Navy on the Club ground at 5 p.m. to-day:

B. M. Thomson, C. F. Needham, D. Hyman, T. A. Pearce, D. J. Bosanquet, J. Walker, J. Charter, L. Cremo, A. F. Walker, J. S. Dunnett, R. G. Cartwright, L. A. Benn, A. S. Olsen, A. G. Dainton, Hyman, J. Redman, Referee, E. A. Matthews.

which he won the St. George Club's 10,000-meter, 10-mile, and 15-mile cross-country championships.

His 10 miles in 52m. 31.6s. at Sydney University Oval 12 years ago, still stands as the Australian track record.

"I'm just coming good after 20 years of distance running," said Gainsford, inhaling his second wind deeply.

Enjoyable Billiards At European "Y"

A SECOND enjoyable billiards evening was held at the European Y.M.C.A. yesterday. Two novelty competitions, a match and an exhibition match constituted the programme, and were most entertaining.

The match, between the Under 40's and the Over 40's, resulted as follows:

UNDER 40's	OVER 40's
E. W. Morland 6	Major Wright 35
R. Goldman 3	H. Eager 25
H. Patrick 25	L. H. de Cosler 24
L. Pennell 1	S. Kemp 25
R. L. Neubronner 25	P. A. Jones 12
A. F. Evans 20	H. E. Langley 25
	80
	130

Novelty Competitions

TWO NOVELTY competitions, the first rounds of which were of 11 up, were played.

In the first, "spot" was only allowed to score in the right hand pockets and "plain" in the left. Points scored contrary to this were conceded to one's opponent.

The winner was R. Goldman who beat E. W. Morland. There were 16 entries.

In the second competition, in which players were not allowed to score consecutive shots the same (e.g. two cannons), L. H. de Cosler beat Major Wright in the final (25 up). There were eight entries.

EXHIBITION MATCH

C. TEHRANS met Fred Marsh, of the Dockyard Recreation Club, in an exhibition match, in which, though the standard was not high, scoring was steady.

Terrans won by 200 to 151.

Civil Service And Craigengower Cricket Elevens

The following will represent Civil Service Cricket Club First and Second elevens in friendly cricket matches on Saturday at Pokfulam and at the Valley, respectively:

1st XI (away)—J. E. Richardson, K. J. Attwood, F. Baker, T. V. N. Fortesque, R. H. Grimmit, B. C. K. Hawkins, D. J. Hollidge, D. McCallan, A. E. Perry, N. L. Smith, N. Whitley.

2nd XI (home)—H. F. Strange, G. Atwell, J. Barrett, P. Cunningham, G. Davidson, H. F. Harter, F. E. Lawrence, J. F. McGowan, G. Stone, A. Watson, A. M. J. Wright.

SUNDAY'S MATCH

The following will represent Civil Service A against European Y.M.C.A. on Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Valley:

W. Colledge, K. J. Atwell, G. Davidson, F. Harvey, E. H. Kennell, J. F. McGowan, J. Mitchell, H. Farrott, N. L. Smith, G. Stone, A. Watson.

Craigengower Teams

The following will represent Craigengower First and Second teams against Indian R.C. at cricket on Saturday at 2 p.m. at Happy Valley and at Sookunpo respectively:

1st XI—E. Zimmermann (Capt), G. Souza, A. C. Ismail, B. L. Billimoria, A. J. Hulse, B. R. France, A. J. Hemm, S. A. Lee, W. Hong Sing, J. L. Youngsavage and M. C. Hung. Reserve, E. H. Kennell.

2nd XI—A. M. Omar (Capt), A. Hung, J. W. Leonard, W. K. Way, H. Leonard, N. Broadbridge, T. Luck, C. W. Omar, U. H. Zermal, E. Mitchell and C. W. Lum. Reserve, T. Edgar and L. Choa.

Millwall Captain Refuses To Leave Field

THERE was an amazing scene in the Crystal Palace v. Millwall match recently when the referee called all the players off the field after J. R. Smith, the Millwall captain, had refused to go off after being given marching orders.

After an absence of five minutes the teams returned and the game was resumed without Smith.

Penalty Sequel

THIS extraordinary incident was the sequel to the awarding of a penalty to the Palace after 38 minutes.

Millwall players protested, and twice the ball was kicked away from the penalty spot—once among the crowd!

Then occurred a scene between some of the Millwall men and a section of the crowd, following which Smith had his orders to leave the field.

Id. 28151. JUST RECEIVED A NEW RANGE OF INFANTS' PADDED QUILTS

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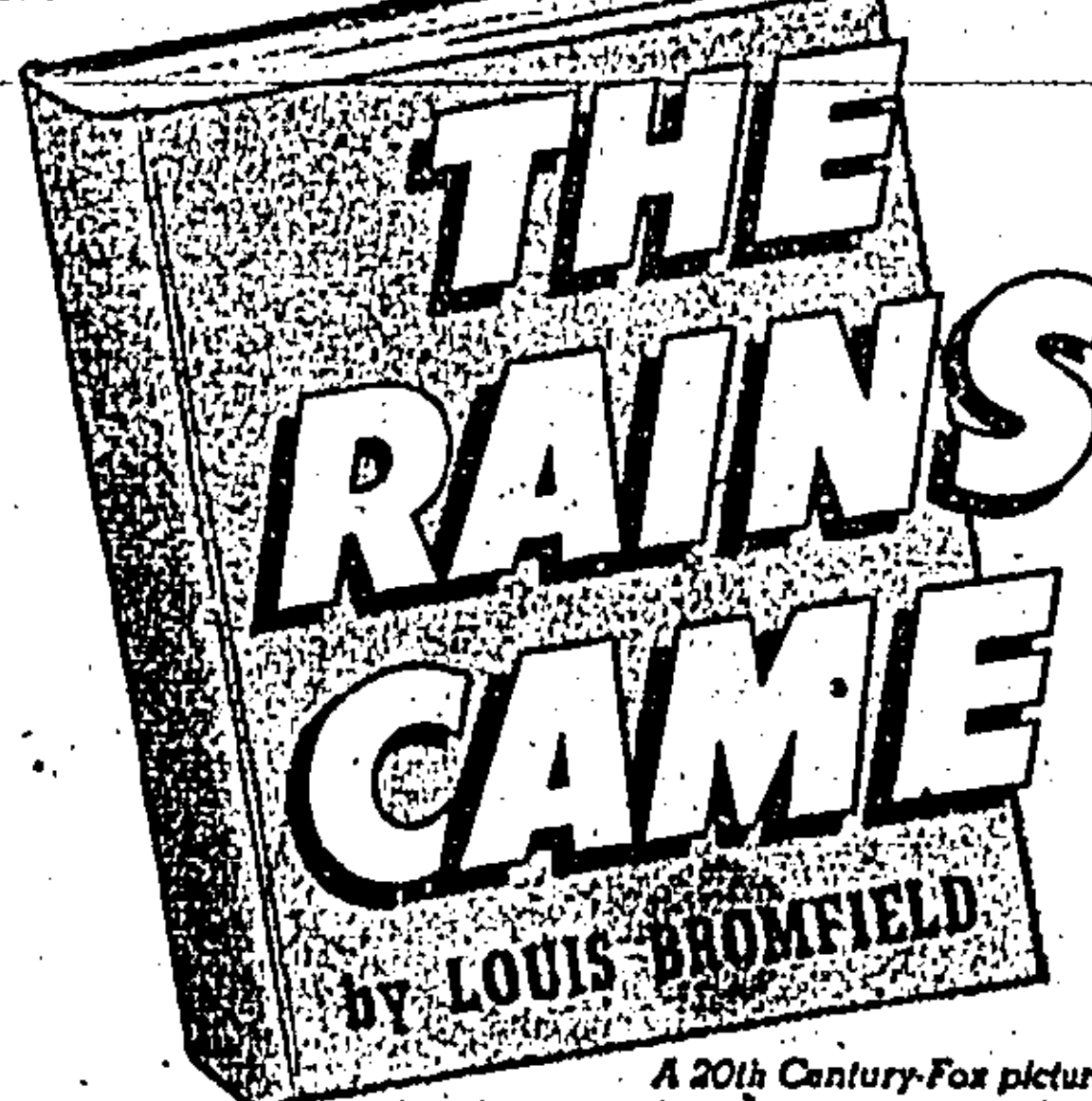
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Associate Producer Harry Joe Brown • Screen Play by Philip Dunne and Julius Josephson

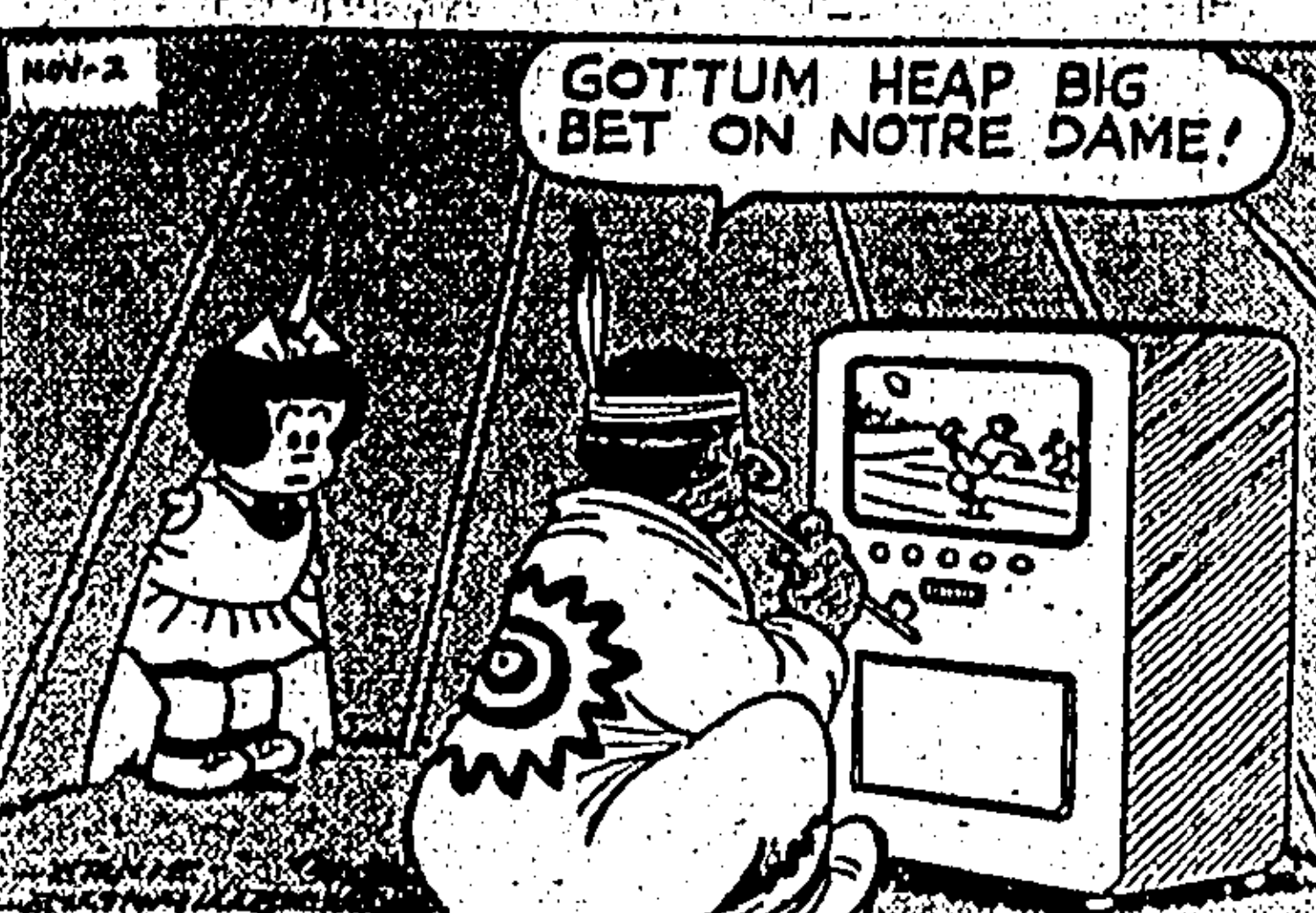
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NANCY



COLOURFUL STORY OF VICTORIOUS BRITISH INVASION OF LIBYA

CAIRO, DEC. 17 (REUTER).—BRITISH INFANTRY WERE TO-DAY PREPARING TO PARTICIPATE IN A BIG PUSH ACROSS THE FRONTIER INTO LIBYA. THEY WERE WEARY BUT TRIUMPHANT WHEN THEY OCCUPIED SOLLUM YESTERDAY AFTER DAYS OF CHASING THE ITALIANS OUT OF EGYPTIAN TERRITORY.

Sollum is only a tiny port surrounded by a few white houses. Above the port is Upper Sollum, the main feature of which is the large barracks belonging to the Egyptian Army but long ago blown to pieces by British bombardments while the Italians were in occupation.

With a little group of British correspondents and one American, I spent the last few days watching the final stages of our assault on Sollum, the tactics for which were just as well thought out as those at other points in the present campaign.

Sollum was first imperilled a week ago when a British armoured division, after dealing with a whole series of other objectives, came smashing through Bugbug from Sidi Barrani so quickly that the whole Catanzaro Division under General Giuseppe Amico, which had been happily en route to Sidi Barrani on normal relief duty believing the war to be miles away, was taken completely by surprise.

Majority Captured
The majority of its men were taken prisoner and nearly all its material was left strewn along the sides of the road.

These British tanks swept on up Sollum while others were coming up across the escarpment from the interior.

A hail of fire was poured into the defenders of Sollum by the British tanks while the R.A.F. continued incessant bombing. A slight check to the British forces occurred when some tanks became bogged in the salt fields outside Sollum but this did not seriously hamper our offensive operations. The British tanks dashed on to occupy the coastal territory beyond Bardia, 30 miles or more inside Libya.

What they did so, an infantry brigade moved up with instructions not to attack Sollum directly but contain it, letting nobody escape.

Fort Charged, Taken
By Sunday, the defenders of Sollum, alarmed at their precarious position, had moved up to the top of the escarpment, blowing up the road leading from lower to Upper Sollum.

The British infantry pressed in on Sollum despite fire from the escarpment and occupied Lower Sollum without heavy casualties by Monday morning, and by the same afternoon, the Italians on the escarpment had given up.

All arrangements to receive fresh prisoners from Sollum were completed yesterday (Monday) at Bugbug, where over 12,000 had already been fed and watered before passing on.

"Victory Avenue"
I have just watched 8,000 Italian soldiers, officers, non-commissioned

officers and men, marching down Victory Avenue through Egypt. But they marched as prisoners, every two or three hundred of them being guarded by a single cheerful Cockney private and the "Victory Avenue" down which they marched was the road between Sollum and Sidi Barrani which Marshal Graziani has been building several months past.

The road, which will now be a nice present for the Egyptians, would have cost at least £60,000 to build.

A fantastic sight met our eyes as our car came over the rising ground near Bugbug. We saw the entire valley shrouded in clouds and dust, through which the evening sun glowed while from the dust emerged a seemingly endless stream of dark-green uniformed figures with khaki-clad British soldiers marching smartly at their side.

Cheerful Prisoners
The Italians were chatting, laughing and smoking, apparently completely heedless of the fact that the whole illusion created by Fascist propaganda has been swept aside in a single week.

The "Victory Way" to Sidi Barrani, a typical straight Roman road whose rapid construction was a considerable engineering feat, bears many signs of this propaganda.

Along the road are stones erected in honour of Mussolini and at the Sidi Barrani end is a memorial put up even before the road was finished recording that "The 12th Artillery Company, in the face of the malice of the enemy, the burning sun and the biting wind, made this road to link together the sands of Libya and Egypt."

Though it is not yet asphalted, this road forms a useful line of communication for the British forces advancing into Libya.

Empty Bugbug
There is hardly anything at Bugbug itself—just a solitary house and a series of Italian water tanks now guarded by British sentries distributing water to the prisoners as they stream through.

Several more thousands of prisoners had been gathered round the water tanks last night. An infantry major was in charge of their feeding. While we were talking to him an Italian officer came up, saluted and asked for transport for a medical officer who was having a busy night. The major fixed him up with a lorry which an Italian doctor was allowed to drive himself.

Meanwhile the crashing of bombs and the roar of anti-aircraft fire has been making Bardia look like Hann in Germany when the Royal Air Force are having a busy night.

Bardia Assaulted
From a height on the coast east of Sollum I watched the hottest firework display of flaming bombs and anti-aircraft fire and bombs that I have seen in this part of the world. It was all part of the encouragement to the Italians at Bardia to capitulate rapidly.

The only reply of the Italians was to send a small number of lone bombers to harass the British troops.

Britain In Arms Till Europe Is Freed

LONDON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—The British Government could never accept any arrangement having the effect of perpetuating German domination of Europe and the British Government are resolutely determined to do all in their power to deliver the nations now under the heel of Germany from that yoke and restore their former independence and prosperity.

This statement was made by Lord Snell in the House of Lords to-day, replying to a request by Lord Noel-Buxton for a Government statement with regard to any suggestions purporting to be aimed at peace terms which had been made to Britain by the German Government since Italy's entry into the war.

Lord Snell recalled the statement by the late Lord Tryon on November 20 that during recent years Germany had frequently suggested that she would be happy to maintain good relations with Britain provided that Germany was given a free hand in Europe.

The British Government had never been prepared to discuss such an arrangement since it could only be at the expense of her former French ally and other free European countries which are at present British allies.

Serious Approaches
Lord Snell added that more serious suggestions to this effect from the Germans were naturally made prior to the outbreak of war. From time to time there had been indications that Germany was prepared to renew these suggestions, but not with sufficient authority to justify any statement by the British Government.

India To Intern Italian Prisoners

NEW DELHI, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—Internment camps are being prepared in India for the reception of at least 20,000 Italian prisoners of the Western Desert who are expected to be brought to India soon.

Vichy Hopes Italy May Lighten Peace Terms

LONDON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—Though internal policy is believed to be the chief cause of M. Laval's dismissal, reports from Vichy fail entirely to clarify the reasons.

It is probable, however, that Laval's efforts to make Marshal Petain a pliant tool for his pro-German policy encountered increasingly stubborn resistance, which was fortified by the situation in the Mediterranean.

It is reported that Laval last week laid far-reaching proposals for internal reform before the Vichy Cabinet together with a new German peace offer, both of which were rejected.

Marshal Petain is reported to have summoned M. Flaminio after this. The latter is held to be anxious to adopt a more dignified policy than Laval, and it is thought that he would never consent to placing French colonial bases at the disposal of Germany.

Separate Negotiations
Nevertheless Britain's Mediterranean successes have revived hopes among the group, of which Admiral

Woman Is Convicted Of Treachery

Capital Sentence

LONDON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—A woman was sentenced to death for treachery to-day at Winchester—the first of such sentences to be announced as passed on a woman since the outbreak of war.

She is Dorothy Pamela O'Grady, 42 years old.

The charges on which she was found guilty were that in the Isle of Wight she made a plan likely to assist the military operations of the enemy and that with the object of helping the enemy, she cut a military telephone wire.

The case was heard in camera and the Court was open to the public only at the pronouncement of sentence. O'Grady, a short, dark, bespectacled woman, showed no emotion when the judge passed sentence.

U.S. DESTROYERS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—The award of contracts for the construction of 40 additional destroyers at an estimated cost of over \$253,000,000 is announced by Colonel Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy. Colonel Knox also announced the award of contracts for the expansion of shipbuilding facilities at a cost of over \$8,000,000.

Exchange At A Glance

SELLING	
T.T. London	1/2 1/2
Demand London	1/2 1/2
T.T. Shanghai	305
T.T. Singapore	32 1/2
T.T. Japan	102 1/2
T.T. India	82 1/2
T.T. U.S.A.	23 1/2
T.T. Manila	40 1/2
T.T. Batavia	43 1/2
T.T. Bangkok	140
T.T. Saigon	101 1/2
T.T. France	Nom.
T.T. Switzerland	50 1/2
T.T. Australia	1/0 1/2
BUYING	
4 m/s L/C London	1/3 1/4
4 m/s D/P London	1/3 1/4
4 m/s L/C U.S.A.	24 1/4
4 m/s France	Nom.
30 d/s India	84 1/2
U.S. Cross rate in London	4.02 1/2
U.S. Cross rate in N.Y.	4.03 1/4

H.K. Stock Market

The following quotations were issued on the Hongkong Stock Market this morning.

BANKS	
H.K. Banks	1,365 b.
H.K. Banks	70 n.
H.K. Banks (H.K.)	81 n.
Chartered	8 1/2 n.
Mercantile, A. & B.	20 1/2 n.
Mercantile, C.	10 1/2 n.
East Asia	74 b.
INSURANCES	
Canton	100 b.
Union	305 b.
China Underwriters	1 n.
H.K. Fire	150 n.
SHIPPING	
Douglas	135 n.
Steamships	11 n.
Indo-China	100 n.
Indo-China D.	80 n.
Shell (Bearers)	38/9 n.
Waterboats	7 n.
DOCKS ETC.	
Wharves	92 b.
Docks (old)	16.10 b. & sn.
Docks (new)	17 1/2 b.
Providents	5.60 b. & sn.
Shai Dockyards	30 n.
MINING	
Kailan	10/3 n.
Rauba	9 1/4 n.
H.K. Mines	1 1/4 n.
LANDS	
Hotels	3 1/2 b.
Lands	33 1/2 n.
Lands 4% Debentures	100 n.
Shai Lands Sh	11 1/4 n.
Humphreys	7.80 sn.
H.K. Realities	3.05 n.
Chinese Estates	100 n.
UTILITIES	
Trams	17.70 sn.
Peak Trams (old)	7.40 n.
Peak Trams (new)	3 1/4 n.
Star Ferries	61 n.
Y. Ferries	24 1/4 n.
China Lights (old)	7.35/40 sn.
China Lights (new)	7.00 b.
H.K. Electric (old)	40 1/2 n.
H.K. Electric (new)	30 1/2 n.
Macao Electric (old)	17 1/2 n.
Macao Electric (new)	16 1/2 n.
Sundown Lights	11.20 b.
Telephones (old)	25.70 n.
Telephones (new)	10 1/2 n.
INDUSTRIALS	
Caid: Macg. (Ord.)	Sh. 14.00 n.
Caid: Macg. (Pref.)	Sh. 12 n.
Canton Ices	1 n.
Cemets	18.20 n.
H.K. Enterprises	7 b.
STORIES, &c.	
Dairy Farms	10 1/2 n.
Watsons	10.35 b.
Lane Crawfords	9 n.
Sinceres	2.15 n.
Wing On (H.K.)	39 n.
Powell Ltd.	1.90 n.
COTTON MILLS	
Ewo Sh.	37 n.
Shai Cotton Sh.	165 n.
MISC.	
H.K. Govt. 4%	98 n.
H.K. Govt. 3 1/4% (1934)	94 n.
H.K. Govt. 3 1/4% (1940)	94 n.
Ch. Govt. 5% 1925 GSBds.	35 n.
H.K. Enterprises	7 b.
Constructions (old)	1.60 b.
Constructions (new)	1 n.
Vibro Piling	7.70 n.
Marmans Inv. (Lon.)	7/8 n.
Marmans Inv. (H.K.)	2/8 n.

AMERICAN EAGLES	
LONDON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—A club for Americans serving with the British forces was opened in London this afternoon. It will be known as the "American Eagle Club."	
General W. H. Hoy, an American, spoke at the opening.	
PRESIDENT LINER SAILINGS	
To SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES	
Via Shanghai, Kobe, Yokohama & Honolulu.	
SS "President Coolidge"	DEC. 28
SS "President Pierce"	JAN. 8
SS "President Taft"	JAN. 17
To NEW YORK AND BOSTON	
Via Manila, Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay & Capetown.	
† SS "President Van Buren"	DEC. 17
SS "President Garfield"	FEB. 8
To MANILA	
SS "President Pierce"	DEC. 27
SS "President Taft"	JAN. 10
SS "President Cleveland"	JAN. 24



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INVASION PORTS ATTACKED

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"
LONDON, Dec. 17 (UP).—Heavy explosions from the direction of the French coast shook the Dover area at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

They are believed to have been caused by a daylight raid by the R.A.F. on the invasion ports.

KLEENEX DISPOSABLE TISSUES

Keep a package in every room in the house... nursery, as well as bathroom and bedroom... and one in the car all the time. Kleenex has hundreds of uses.



American Eagles

LONDON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—A club for Americans serving with the British forces was opened in London this afternoon. It will be known as the "American Eagle Club."

General W. H. Hoy, an American, spoke at the opening.

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Tears cease and baby's pain is soon soothed away with a teaspoonful of Woodward's Gripe Water. Woodward's checks fermentation and ensures complete digestion. It removes the cause of discomfort in a natural way. Woodward's contains no opiates, and is safe to give babies of any age.



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and
Chairman, Hongkong War Effort Committee

Grand Softball Matches

will be held at the
KOWLOON FOOTBALL CLUB

on
BOXING DAY
at 10.30 a.m.

K.F.C. Members under 40 years

v.

K.F.C. Members over 40 years

THE LADIES

v.

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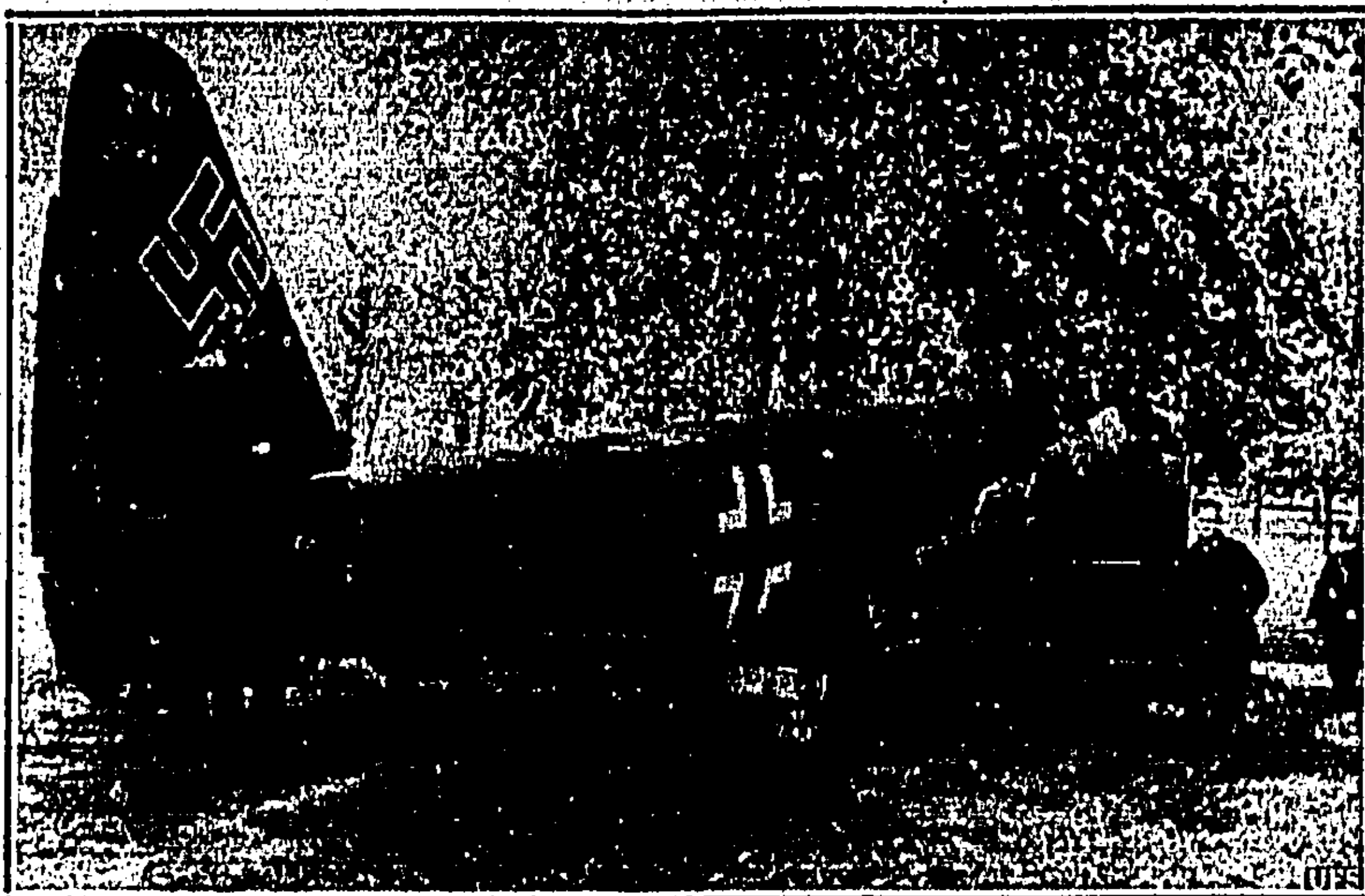
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ENDED IN ENGLAND—Last journey for German Junkers plane ended in England when British anti-aircraft gunners shot it down. Note bullet holes in fuselage. Plane loaded on truck is headed for what British censor, calls a German scrap heap.

Jingoism In Britain Is Now Dead

The Rev. Walter H. Armstrong, a Norwich Methodist and first Moderator of the newly formed Free Church Federal Council, believes that the war should silence for ever "all these silly persons who have been telling us that it does not matter what we believe."

Delivering his inaugural address to the Council in London, he declared that the war was the fruit of Nazi and Fascist creeds forced into the minds of youth for years past. The atrocious cruelties were the logical outcome of the beliefs imposed.

"In my judgment, the overwhelming body of Free Churchmen stand by the Prime Minister in the gigantic and almost overwhelming burden that lies heavily upon him. As far as we can, we would help him in the bearing of the burden," he said.

Anti-Christian Forces
"From him we hear no glorification of war as we have done from Hitler and Mussolini. Jingoism in this country is either dead or breathing its last breath."

The Archbishop of Canterbury said: "We are witnessing in our generation the most vast and terrible struggle between Christian and non-Christian forces that has ever been seen."

It was significant that the anti-Christian forces had been able to yoke to themselves all the power and strength of science and perfection of that machinery to which so much of the spirit of the age had been subjected.

HITLER TRYING TO BRING WARSHIPS TO CHANNEL PORTS

Germany is making great efforts to bring small warships down from the naval bases of Emden and Kiel to Calais and Boulogne.

It is not a difficult naval feat. Minefields would constitute some danger, but it is probable that the Germans have made attempts to sweep up the mines off these coasts.

Travelling at night, the ships would hug the coast and would be able to elude observation.

Someone who has spent a lot of time in Italy has suggested that it was Mussolini's original plan, immediately on entering the war, to rush the Straits of Gibraltar with all his fleet and bombard Britain's coast. This was his plan even before the Germans had occupied the coast of France.

Shirked Idea
Immediately war broke out, however, the Italian naval chiefs, used only to the comparatively smooth and well-charted waters of the Mediterranean, shirked the idea.

They had no experience of open sea warfare and navigation in the Atlantic or North Sea.

Father Joining Up To Get Revenge

James Grimmond, of Coldharbour-lane, S.E., who lost five children in a torpedoed seavac liner, said: "I'm joining up to get my revenge."

"All I want is a front-line job with a chance to get at the Jerries. I don't call this war. I call it cold-blooded murder."

His home was wrecked by a bomb some time before the five children left for Canada. They, with their parents and the family's five other children, were safe in a shelter. Mrs. Grimmond said: "Hitler can't break our spirit. We'll see this through."

'PLANE LOSSES COMPARED

German and British losses of warplanes to the end of September in combat between the Air Forces of the two countries, according to Air Ministry figures, were:

	German	British
1939	62	28
1940, Jan.	6	5
Feb.	7	3
Mar.	11	7
April	53	47
May	705	258
June	224	77
July	245	135
Aug.	1,109	372
Sept.	1,102	387
Total	3,644	1,417

Of the 1,102 aircraft lost by the Germans in September, 450 were bombers. All except nine were brought down over Britain or British waters. R.A.F. fighters were responsible for 900, A.A. guns for 130, and balloon barrages for three.

Czechs Are Rationed For Shoes Now

Ration Cards for shoes and slippers have been issued by the German authorities in Bohemia and Moravia, under a decree which is a masterpiece of German thoroughness.

Whenever he wants a pair of house-shoes or goloshes, a Czech has now to make personal application to his local authorities.

Before they can issue a ration card they must satisfy themselves that the applicant's last pair is beyond repair.

From Old Hats

There is no need for a Czech to apply for a ration card if he wants house-shoes or slippers made entirely from paper felt, remnants of old shoes, useless rubber tyres or discarded hats.

Neither are ration cards necessary for the purchase of men's shoes made from lace or women's shoes made from gold or silver fabrics. But under the decree shoes of lace or gold or silver fabrics may not be produced within Reich and Protectorate boundaries.

Anglo-Mexican Relations

Important Moves

A resumption of diplomatic relations between Mexico and England, to show Mexican sympathy for the British 'cause at this time, has been urged to President Cardenas by Señor Isidro Fabela, the Mexican representative on the League of Nations and former Foreign Minister.

Señor Fabela conferred with the President at Guayaquato after reaching an unofficial understanding with Mr. Patrick O'Shea, ex-British Consul at Torreon, who recently returned to Mexico by air from the United States, where he had been on an official mission.

The plan laid before the President recommended that the petroleum controversy should be deferred indefinitely.

England and Mexico broke off diplomatic relations in 1938, following the expropriation of properties owned by the Mexican Eagle Company.

22 Prisoners Escape From Devil's Island

Twenty-two convicts from Devil's Island arrived at the Island of Vieques, off Puerto Rico recently, as reported by San Juan that the French colony is demoralized and numerous prisoners are escaping. It is reported to be short of food and medicine and virtually has been relaxed. Numerous Devil's Island prisoners are roaming the Caribbean Sea in improved boats.

Camouflage Uniforms Developed

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (UP).—Camouflage uniforms have been developed by army engineers which will "blend" snipers into a background of trees, shrubbery or snow, it was learned recently.

These suits, some cut as slip-on raincoats and others as regular uniforms, were suggested by designs used in Europe, but the army feels its designs are better.

The American sniper will wear garments which will give him the appearance of tree bark, a broad leafy plant or a clump of bushes. To complete the effect, he will wear a net over his helmet into which he can stick small, leafy branches.

The designs were worked out at Fort Belvoir, Maryland, where a board of engineers is seeking new methods to break up the vision of enemy aircraft and ground observers.

No Khaki Tents
New problems of camouflage have been created by increasing use of aeroplanes and infra-red photography. The latter has made practically useless the colours that formerly were depended upon to conceal army encampments.

As a result of these experiments, it was learned, the army has decided to abandon the traditional khaki tents. In the future they will be olive drab.

Army engineers now doubt the value of "dazzle" painting which formerly was employed to give army tanks and trucks the appearance of an Easter egg. The theory that it confused the enemy has not stood up under tests. Vehicles probably will be painted a dull olive drab. The principle effort will be to eliminate shiny surfaces.

PRINCES CAUGHT WITH HUNDREDS IN ROME PURGE

A sensational report indicating the activity of a widespread anti-war movement inside Italy reached New York recently from John T. Whitaker, Rome correspondent of the "Chicago Daily News."

He said that far-reaching measures to purge Italy of defeatist elements were revealed when Prince Alessandro Torlonia and Prince Filippo Doria were caught in the Fascist dragnet involving hundreds of arrests.

The authorities are determined, said Whitaker, to leave no Italian citizens any opportunity to talk against war or to spread bad feeling between the two "loyal allies" of the Axis.

Prince Torlonia was married in Rome in 1935 to the Infanta Beatrice, daughter of the King of Spain.

Nazi Pilot Rushed Back Into Service

After Three Days

A German pilot, shot down at 2 a.m. after a raid on London, told Robert Mead, a farm worker, to whom he surrendered at dawn, that he came out of hospital—he had broken his leg—only three days before.

His account of having been rushed back into front-line service was borne out by markings on his parachute. It was stamped to show it had been issued to him three days before.

His plane which crashed in flames was a big Heinkel night bomber. It was one of Germany's latest machines, the salvaged parts were dated August 1940.

Another of the crew, a sergeant, was found two miles away. The three others were trapped in the plane when it fell in flames.

Crossword Puzzle

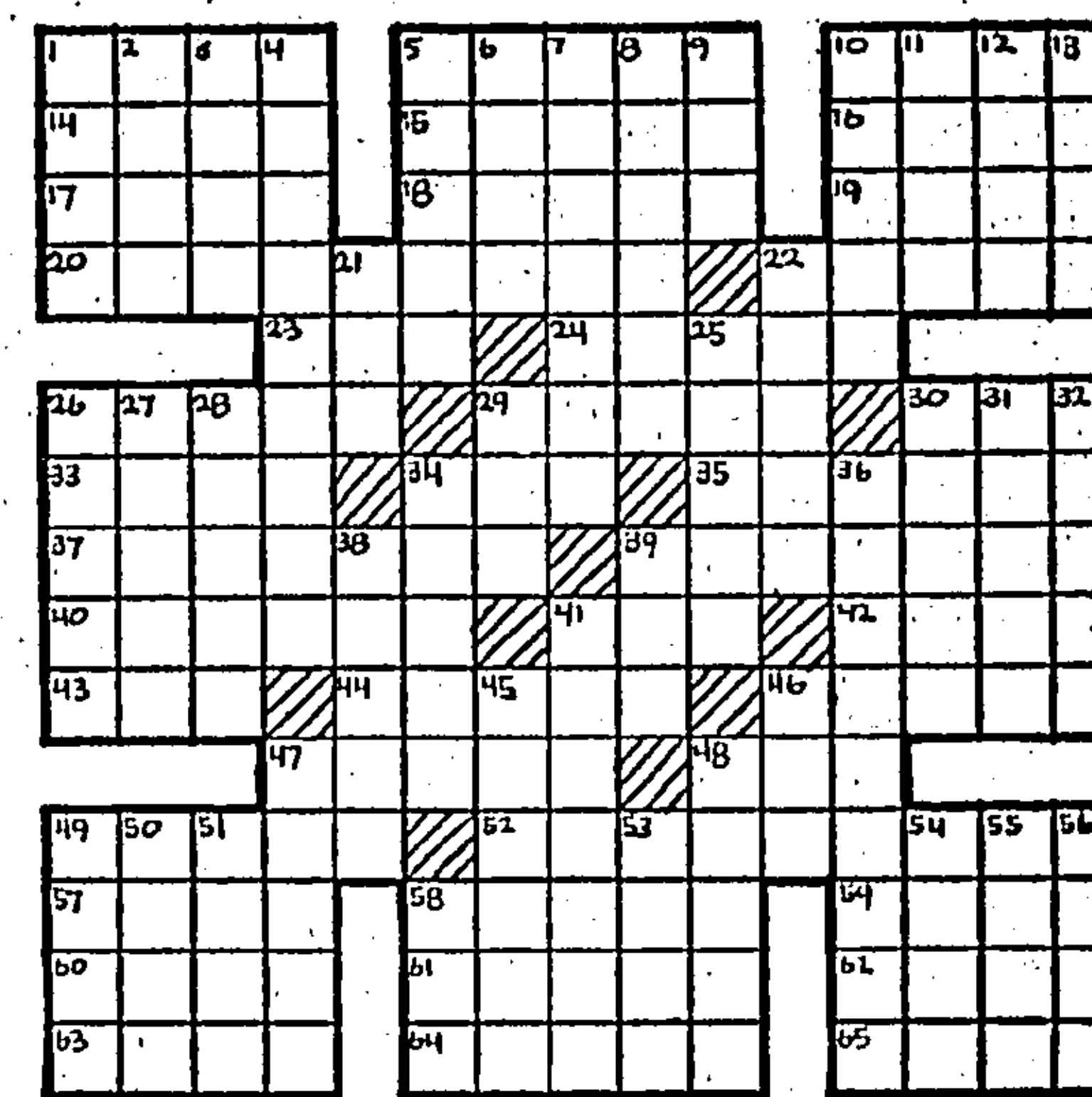
By LARS MORRIS

ACROSS

- 1—Fall into water suddenly
- 10—Indian's name of war
- 11—Razzy gallop
- 12—More devil of adulteration
- 13—Loud sound
- 14—Rhetoric
- 15—Set in order
- 16—Cattle language
- 17—Troubled
- 18—Crawled
- 19—Curved worm
- 20—Divine name (Chthon)
- 21—Portion melted out
- 22—Roman entrance-halls
- 23—Shape of doughnut of being
- 24—Abstract conception
- 25—Unfavorable
- 26—Quantity operated on mathematically
- 27—Curly hair
- 28—Renied
- 29—Dance step
- 30—Frosted
- 31—Fugate things
- 32—Have again
- 33—Abrasive material
- 34—Suburb of Naples
- 35—Mr. Debe of the Forty Thieves
- 36—Small eye horse
- 37—Dirt upward
- 38—Employ
- 39—Pained
- 40—In a row (poetic)

DOWN

- 2—Plucky meate
- 3—Edge of sidewalk
- 4—Lined
- 5—Oversee carefully
- 6—Wait on
- 7—In addition to
- 8—Unwanted bit of vegetation
- 9—Custom
- 10—Depart
- 11—Fidlers
- 12—"Took without confidence"
- 13—"The who has confidence"
- 14—In addition to
- 15—Report to member
- 16—Kind of cover
- 17—Ort rid of
- 18—Reckoning of years
- 19—"Pout in a"
- 20—"Coked in water as"
- 21—Who follows tracks of
- 22—Vile
- 23—Vegetation used to make sugar
- 24—Stands in
- 25—Rusts with bulle
- 26—Part of eye
- 27—Humian sea
- 28—Bunch of red
- 29—Female sheep
- 30—Catalanized: the
- 31—Aster



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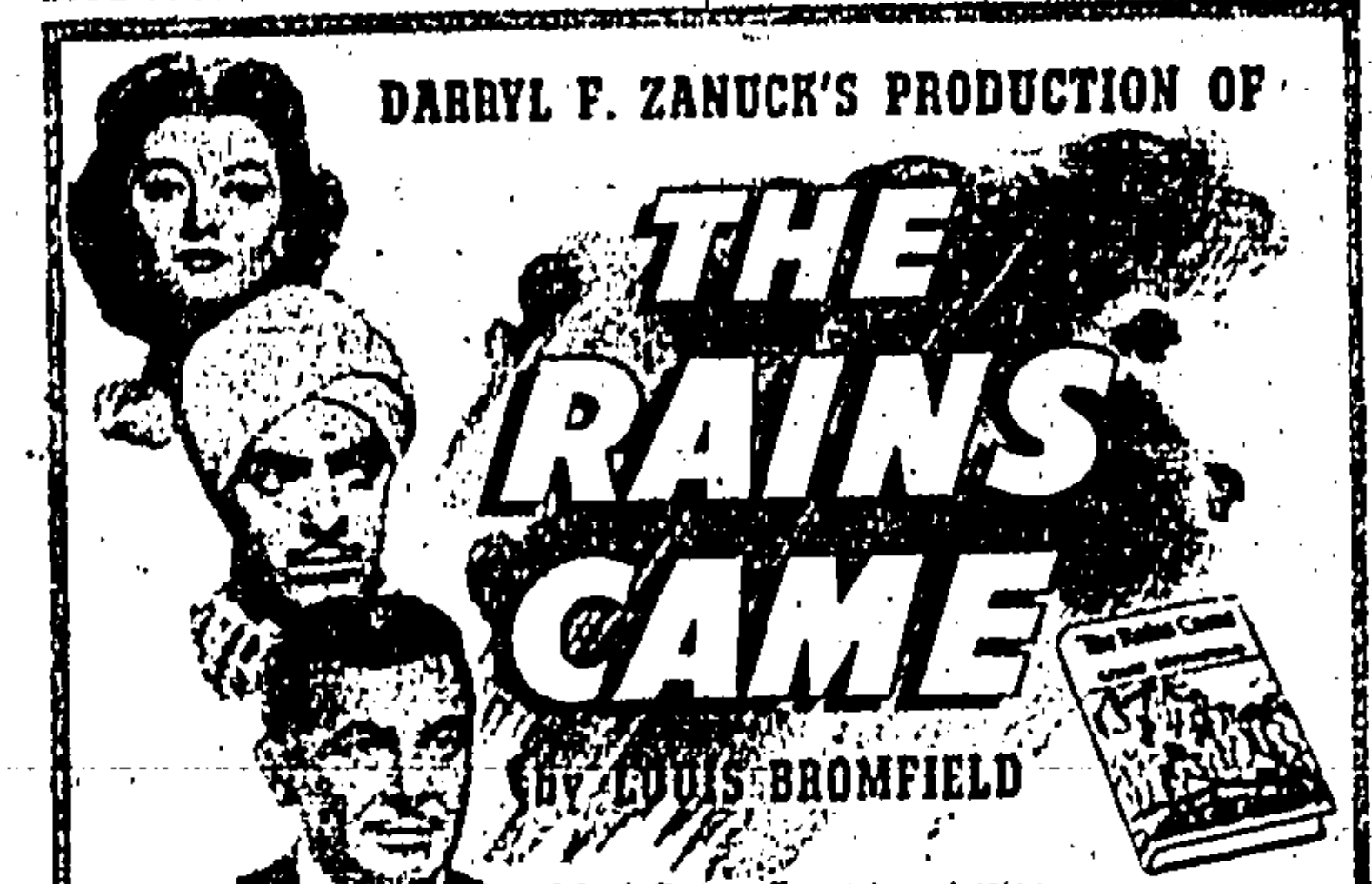
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A shoot-em-up melodrama which stands head and shoulders above all G-men pictures. In the United States there are 14,000 habitual criminals on parole, 30% of the convicted men bought their parole through slyster lawyers and crooked politicians, no punches are pulled in exposing this nefarious political racket.

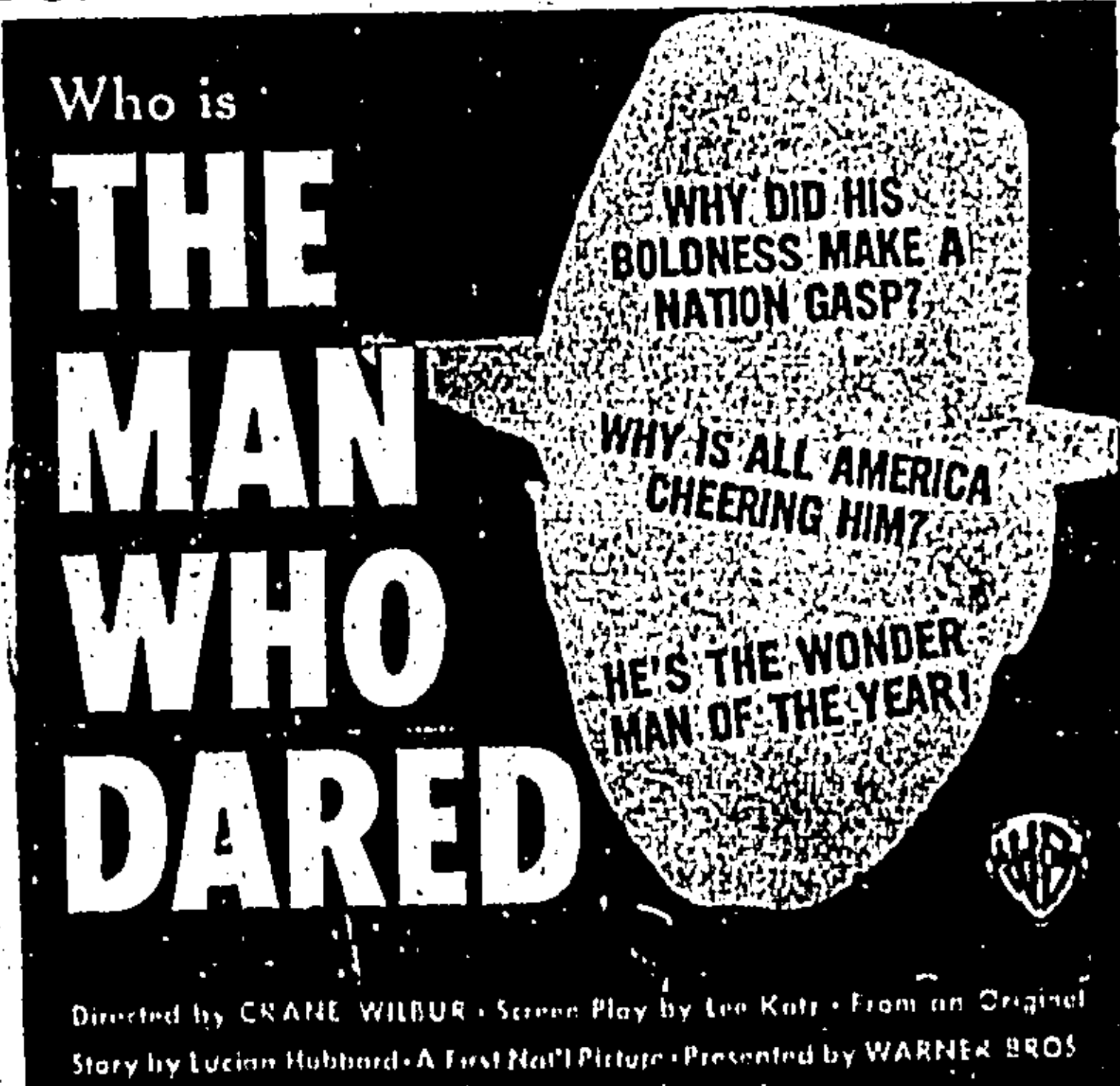
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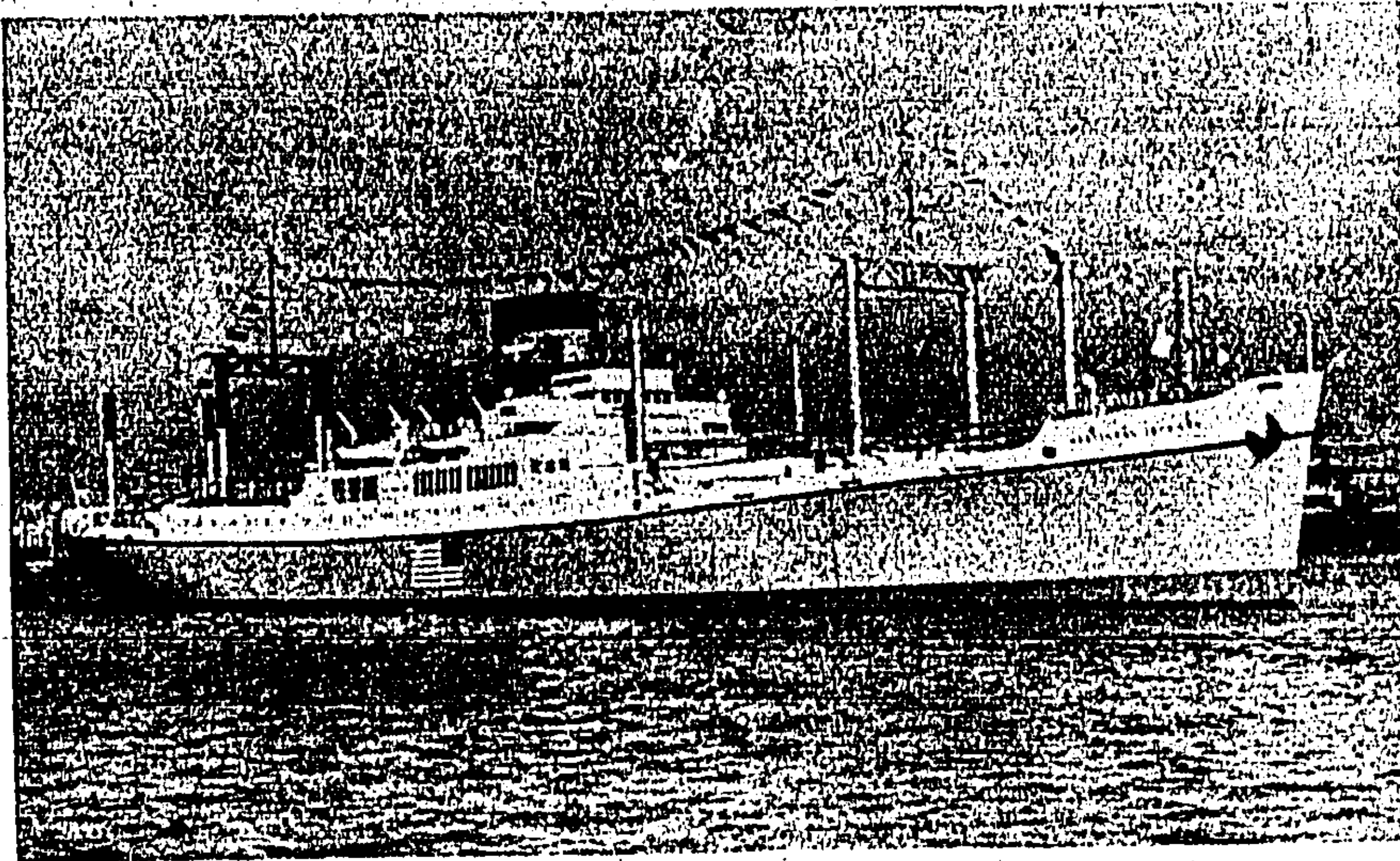
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NEW AMERICAN ROUND-THE-WORLD LINER



Striking study of the President Jackson, new round-the-world 9,300-ton American President Lines vessel, which visited Hongkong on Sunday. She is on her maiden voyage. The liner which has accommodation for 100 passengers, boasts several notable features in modern shipbuilding design.

HOW COLONIES CONTRIVE TO BALANCE TRADE LOSS

LONDON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—Economic agreements have just been negotiated with the Free colonies in Africa and with the Belgian Congo.

These facts were mentioned in the House of Lords to-day by Lord Lloyd, Secretary for the Colonies, as some of the many steps taken in the organisation of a vast scheme of co-ordinating colonial production, not merely between British and Allied colonies, but more especially among British colonies themselves.

Beaverbrook Warns Britain Of Nazi Plans

→ FROM PAGE ONE

spiring to dominate Europe. He sits on a three-legged stool comprising air superiority, mechanised forces, and the fifth columnist methods of panic and fear. Britain has a sure defence in the control of the seas and has knocked away the first leg of Hitler's stool. She has seized the control of the air by day with fighter squadrons of Hurricanes, Spitfires, Defiants and Whirlwinds.

The German newspapers daily disclose signs of the immense attempt Hitler is making to bring out a huge air force in the spring. These are sure and certain signs of a feverish development in production.

We Shall Overcome
We shall meet and overcome the danger by industry, enterprise, endurance and fortitude. It will be a hard struggle but the builders of aircraft have had difficult tasks before. The four months in which the battle raged over Britain have been fully paid for by public contributions.

It is now a contest between the industrial forces of Britain and the resources and strength of the combined nations of Europe's conquerors and conquered. Against them the British work the doggedly and willingly with the certainty that we shall destroy the enemy by our labours.

London Disturbed
TOPEKA, Kansas, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—Mr. Alfred Landon, Republican Candidate for Presidency in 1936, declared on his return here from a visit to Washington that he had been advised "by reliable official sources that Hitler was planning to invade Britain about the middle of February."

Mr Landon said that he had found a "definitely disturbed" feeling in administration circles over the failure to co-ordinate American defence activities.

KING'S GRAPES
By order of the King the grapes from the royal vine at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, the oldest in the country, are being sent to war hospitals and evacuated children from London living in Windsor.

Greeks Drive Toward Valona: Vuna Taken
Continued from Page 1

server in Greece, has just completed an extensive tour of the front and reports that the secret of the Greek success is due to two main factors: (1) They give the Italians no rest; (2) If they do meet with strong resistance, the Greeks split up into small bodies which converge on the Italians from different points, throwing them into panic.

Ceylon Markets
Lord Lloyd mentioned some of the colonial economic ups and downs as the result of war conditions. Ceylon had lost a small copra market but was doing well on tea, rubber and plumbago. Malaya had lost part of its copra market but was abounding in rubber and tin. Hongkong is doing pretty well in general entropot shipping, etc.

Palestine is in some difficulties over citrus exports on account of the lack of shipping. The sugar colonies of the West Indies are quite comfortable. Trinidad is doing well with oil and British Guiana with bauxite. In all cases of hardship, we have found and are finding financial means of saving the colonies from grave suffering. Realising the weight of the war impact, the colonies are getting on extraordinarily well.

Free French forces, which are right in the front line, are giving valuable support to the Imperial troops. They showed great courage and dash in the final onslaught against Sollum.

Although French Army tactics are very different from the British, months of hard training have produced a splendid fighting unit. They are working in excellently with their British comrades.

More Libyan Forts Captured
→ FROM PAGE ONE

while lorry loads of stores and ammunition bring up the rear. "Rush" tactics were employed in the British attack on three frontier forts, whose capture was announced in to-day's British communiqué.

Unflagging Advance
British advanced mechanised units are continuing to advance towards Bardia with unflagging speed. Behind them and trying to keep up with them is a continuous stream of infantry, many riding in captured lorries and trucks.

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BARDIA BLASTED

→ FROM PAGE ONE

the dock areas. Again British aircraft returned safely.

East Africa
CAIRO, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—Gura and Asmara, in Italian East Africa, were raided during the night of December 15, says the R.A.F. Headquarters.

At Asmara, a factory and transport park were bombed. Enemy fighters damaged one R.A.F. bomber, which, however, managed to return to British territory.

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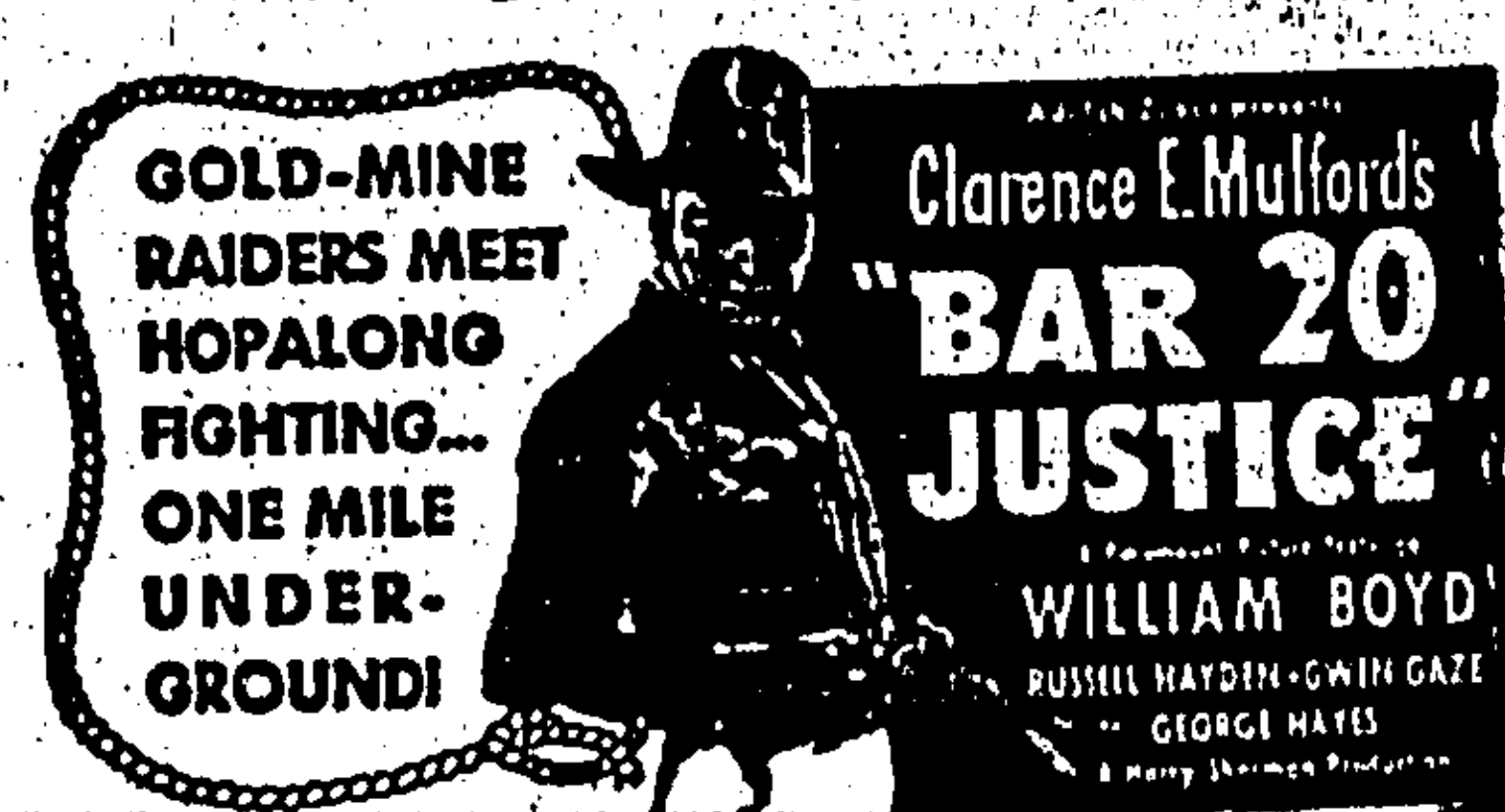
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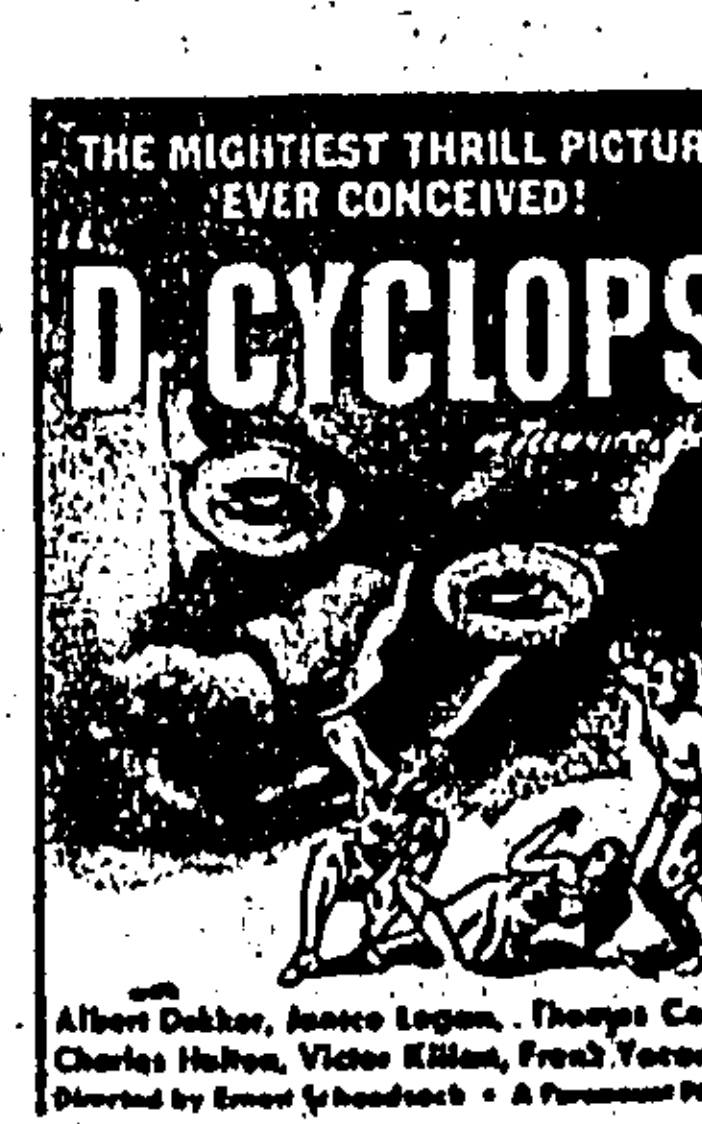
JANE WITHERS in "SHOOTING HIGH"

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• TO-MORROW •

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London's First Jury Forewoman

Mrs. Mabel Frances Clark, a news-agent and tobacconist, of Albany Street, Regent's Park, N.W., has made history.

She was the first woman in the history of the London Sessions to be foreman of a jury and the deputy chairman, Mr. A. W. Cockburn, said: "She must be complimented on the way she did the work."

"I was a little surprised when the test of the jury selected me as forewoman," she said, "but it was an interesting experience."

The Argentine Government has put the maize growers on the dole, faced with the largest crop for many years, together with the loss of most of the European market the Government has bought the lot.

The crop, estimated at 11,200,000 tons, will be taken over at a fixed price and disposed of by export, home consumption, new industrial uses and social relief purposes.

Profits from the Exchange Control Profits Fund are to be used to finance the deal, and any deficiency will be made up by advances from the Central Bank.

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GILMAN'S

BRITISH ADVANCE IN LIBYA GOES ON WITH TREMENDOUS IMPETUS

CAIRO, DEC. 17 (REUTER).—THE BRITISH ADVANCE CONTINUES, WITH TREMENDOUS IMPETUS. BRITISH TROOPS HAVE PENETRATED THE LIBYAN FRONTIER, DRIVING THE ENEMY FROM EGYPTIAN SOIL.

THE ALMOST INCREDIBLE SPEED OF THE ADVANCE MAY HAVE GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ITALIANS ARE NOT RESISTING. THIS IS NOT TRUE.

ARMISTICE IS PREDICTED

Effect of Italian Reverses

Special to the "Telegraph"

ISTANBUL, Dec. 17 (UP).—Commenting on the British campaign in Libya, the Ankara Radio to-day declared that an Anglo-Italian armistice is "entirely possible."

The announcer predicted that the Italian reverses "will have great repercussions in Italy and on the Italian regime."

BARDA BLASTED

R.A.F. Ranges Far Into Libya

CAIRO, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—All enemy aerodromes between Tobruk and Bardia in the Western Desert of Egypt were heavily raided by R.A.F. bombers on Monday, states a communique from the R.A.F. Middle East Headquarters.

Fighter planes maintained constant offensive patrols throughout the day.

Bardia suffered a further intensive raid on Monday night in excellent weather. Altogether more than 12 tons of bombs fell on barracks, military buildings and railways. One particularly fierce blaze as well as other fires were started. Tobruk, Bomba, Berna, El Adem, El Gubbi and El Gzala were attacked heavily and damaged.

Italian Air Losses

During an offensive patrol, R.A.F. fighters shot down eight Italian aircraft and possibly a further two. Another Italian aircraft was destroyed while landing and a general purpose plane was shot down.

Three enemy losses are additional to the 15 Italian aircraft captured near Sollum.

There were no British losses during these Western Desert operations.

Durazzo Also Bombed

CAIRO, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—The R.A.F. Middle East Headquarters announce that in Southern Albania, Durazzo was heavily raided despite bad weather.

Heavy explosions were caused in TURN to Back Page, Column 5

A Cairo report says that the British forces are now closing in on Bardia.

Mechanised units and infantry stormed Muradid and Shefferzan, destroying resistance south of Bardia, and opening the way to attack.

The British troops have now driven off the last Italians from Egypt.

Resistance At Bardia

All along the frontier the Italians put up fair resistance, but once they were mopped up no resistance was encountered until the advancing British forces reached the fortified perimeter around Bardia, which is roughly four or five miles from the town.

"Domel" message from Cairo declares that new British forces are being rushed towards the Cyrenaica frontier. This is officially revealed by the British High Command.

It was also stated that pressure on Bardia is increasing in order to support the troops which have captured Port Capuzzo.

It is also emphasised that British forces in Kenya have renewed their offensive on a greater scale.

Nazi Princess Expelled U.S.

Youth Also To Leave

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"
WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (UP).—The Department of Justice has ordered the expulsion of Karl Scheuring, 18, an alleged Nazi sympathiser, and Princess Maria Hohenlohe of Hungary who was with Fritz Weidmann, German Consul at San Francisco, when the Federal authorities located her.

The Department rejected the applications from the pair for a renewal of their visitor's permits.

Regarding Scheuring, the Federal officials reported, "We know that a good Nazi in the event of a crisis would not hesitate to betray the hospitality of a country where he was a guest."

No reason was given for the expulsion of the Princess.

The divisions captured in all stages were taken owing to the superb leadership of the Imperial Command. They had no time and no chance to offer resistance but reliable reports from the wounded, who had been fighting near the Egyptian frontier, go to show that the Italians who had had ample time to prepare their defences, had been fighting with the greatest bravery.

The capture of "Hellfire" Pass, one of the key-points of Italian resistance against fierce enemy fire, was an operation which largely contributed to the latest British successes. Here the enemy, in cunningly prepared machine-gun posts in the side of the escarpment, held a tactical advantage. They poured a withering fire into our advance units.

Credit To Former Cavalry
At the same time our mechanised forces roared on, battering down the fire fence marking the frontier and forging ahead after some very grim fighting, they silenced the guns of Port Capuzzo.

Much of the credit for the success of the offensive must go to our advanced mechanised units, composed of a famous cavalry regiment which has been operating unceasingly day and night in the Western Desert for the last five years and knows every inch of the ground.

A significant point in the opinion of high military experts at G.H.Q. is the capture of a number of enemy aircraft on the ground. This is held to denote, firstly, the acute shortage of aeroplanes; secondly, the formidable swiftness of the attack by the advanced mechanised units; thirdly, the terrible weather, turning aerodromes into mud and making taking-off difficult and even impossible.

Japan-Soviet Fishing

Basis For Friendship
TOKYO, Dec. 18 (Reuter).—The "Asahi Shimbun" editorially urges the Government to conclude a long-term basic fishing agreement with the Soviet Union within a year.

The new fishing treaty should aim at securing fishing rights and stabilising fishing management, according to the newspaper which, incidentally, calls attention to the fact that the successful conclusion of a long-term fishing treaty based on an equal basis would serve more than anything else to straighten out and brighten current Japanese-Soviet relations.

Italian Father Slain

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"
VATICAN CITY, Dec. 17 (UP).—The Stefani news agency said it has learned that Chinese bandits killed Signor Riccardo Ponsetti, 61, who was on service at the Apostolic Vicariate at Wuhou (Wuhu).

More Libyan Forts Captured

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"
CAIRO, Dec. 17 (UP).—A general headquarters communique, issued this evening, says that British forces on Monday captured the Libyan frontier forts of Musali, Sidiomar and Shefferzan.

The communique adds: "Fighting continues in the Bardia area where our pressure on the enemy is steadily increasing, as new forces arrive."

"In the northern frontier district, the cessation of the rainy period has enabled us to re-commence the offensive, patrolling on a considerable scale. On the Sudan frontier the situation is unchanged."

Severe Fighting

CAIRO, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—Very severe fighting is raging round the Libyan port of Bardia, according to the latest reports received here to-night.

After battering their way across the desert, British advance mechanised units are carrying out a formidable attack on the perimeter defences of the port.

Advanced forces of British infantry are following up the mechanised units. TURN to Back Page, Column 6

LATEST

BOMBER FUND

Amongst this morning's donations to the Bomber Fund was a cheque for \$1,000 from Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

See Back Page For Further Late News

AUSSIES IN ACTION IN WESTERN DESERT



Domitian troops, notably the Australians and New Zealanders are taking a prominent part in the British desert offensive which has carried our troops many miles into Libya. In these two official pictures taken recently we see an Australian convoy making its way through the sand dunes of the Western Desert, and below, an Australian battery of heavy artillery.

Greeks Drive Toward Valona: Vuna Taken

Special to the "Telegraph"

STRUGA, Dec. 17 (UP).—Frontier reports state that Greek artillery this morning heavily shelled the town of Klisura, setting fire to the eastern sector.

SHIPPING LOSSES

"Rather A Bad Week"

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

LONDON, Dec. 17 (UP).—The Admiralty has announced amended figures of shipping losses for the week ended midnight December 11, showing total losses of 81,658 tons, of which 50,858 were British.

Shipping losses were over double the figure for the previous week and included 10 British ships. The total British-Allied losses were 23 ships of 101,100 tons of which three were Allied vessels.

This is regarded as a "rather bad week" and it is explained that a good proportion of the losses were caused "on one particularly bad day."

The average weekly loss during the war, excluding the operations at Dunkirk, is now 63,192 tons.

Windsor Willing To Be Ambassador

MIAMI, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—The Duke of Windsor told a press conference to-day that he had not asked for the appointment of successor to Lord Lothian at the Embassy in Washington, but added: "I would certainly accept it if I thought it to be to the best interests of the two countries."

The Duke and Duchess of Windsor left for Nassau at 10 p.m. to-day in the yacht Southern Cross.

CHUNGKING, Dec. 18 (Central News).—A total of U.S.\$50,000 has been pledged by the Chinese in Portland, U.S.A., in support of the Chinese Airplane Fund Campaign.

FINANCIAL AID IS NECESSARY

Britain Appeals To U.S.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (UP).—The Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Henry Morgenthau, told the House Appropriations sub-committee to-day that British Treasury officials had informed him that Britain cannot order additional war supplies from the United States unless financial aid is assured.

Must Have Money

The latest development to-day was reported to be a statement by Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury, to the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee in the effect that Sir Frederick Phillips, the British Treasury official, had told him that England could make no more commitments for the purchase of war materials in the United States unless financial aid was assured.

Mr. Morgenthau is said to have repeated a statement which he has already made on other occasions that he believed that the United States TURN to Back Page, Column 5

Rice Dealers Fined For Profiteering

Two summonses for profiteering on the sale of rice were heard at the Kowloon Magistracy this morning by Mr. E. Hilmsworth when two women were convicted and fined.

Suen Kuk-ying of the Ka Cheong Rice Shop, No. 37 Hoi Hong Road, was summoned for selling five catties of No. 1 grade rice at 18 cents per catty, which is three cents in excess of the price fixed by the Food Controller.

Sergeant J. Galvin, prosecuting, said that he visited ten shops on the afternoon of December 12 and found them all selling at the fixed price or below, except defendant's shop.

Defendant said she was forced to sell at that price because she had paid a high price for the stock. She was fined \$50.

Chan Lin-hing of No. 72 Sai Kung Road was charged with selling No. 3 grade rice at 10.6 cents instead of 7.4 cents, the price fixed by the Food Controller.

Det-Sergeant C. Dowman said that a boy was sent to buy 32 worth of rice and returned with the rice and a bill showing that he was excessively charged. When the Police went to the store to investigate defendant tried unsuccessfully to destroy the bill, which was produced in court. She was fined \$50.

Roosevelt's Plan To Lease Arms To Britain During War

Special to the "Telegraph"

WASHINGTON, DEC. 17 (UP).—PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT TO-DAY REVEALED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS CONSIDERING THE BUILDING OF ADDITIONAL ARMAMENTS, AND EITHER LOANING OR LEASING THEM TO BRITAIN.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT SAID THAT SINCE THE BEST DEFENCE OF BRITAIN WAS THE BEST DEFENCE FOR THE UNITED STATES, AMERICAN ARMAMENTS WOULD BE OF GREATER VALUE IF BRITAIN USES THEM, INSTEAD OF THEM BEING STORED IN THE UNITED STATES.

The President said he believed it would be best to discuss additional dollar loans or gifts to Britain; however, the leasing or selling as a matter of mortgage was a possible solution to the question of aiding Britain.

Best Way Of Helping
President Roosevelt said that he was endeavouring to eliminate the dollar sign from the controversy as to how best to increase American aid to Britain. The United States might take over future British orders for certain munitions and other implements of war. The United States could pay the manufacturer and then loan or lease the materials to the British to be returned when the war is over.

He added that if the equipment is in good shape, America would accept it back from the British after the payment of a reasonable rental fee; however, if it was damaged or destroyed, Britain would agree to replace it.

Interests Of U.S.A.

The President, when interrogated as to whether or not he thought a new policy towards Britain would bring the United States closer to war, TURN to Back Page, Column 4

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

25 words \$2.50
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FOR SALE.

THOROUGHbred Scottish terriers. Entire proceeds to the Bomber Fund. Can be seen anytime after Wednesday, December 18. At No. 1 Robinson Road—Mrs. Felro.

"HONGKONG AS REVEALED BY THE CAMERA" Second Edition. Over 60 excellent views of the Colony. Price \$1.50. Obtainable at Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., Hongkong Travel Bureau or from the Publishers South China Morning Post, Ltd., Wyndham Street.

H.K. Stock Market

The following quotations were issued on the Hongkong Stock Market this morning.

BANKS	
H.K. Bank	1305 b.
H.K. Bank	70 n.
H.K. Bank	81 n.
Chartered	81 n.
Mercantile, A. & B.	207 1/2 n.
Mercantile, C. & E.	104 1/2 n.
East Asia	74 b.

INSURANCES	
Canton	100 b.
Union	395 b.
China Underwriters	1 n.
H.K. Fire	150 n.

SHIPPING	
Douglas	135 n.
Steamships	11 n.
Indo-China S.	100 n.
Indo-China D.	80 n.
Shell (Dealers)	38/6 n.
Waterboats	7 n.

DOCKS ETC.	
Wharves	92 b.
Docks (old)	18.10 b. & so.
Docks (new)	17 1/4 n.
Providents	5.60 b. & so.
Shal Dockyards	30 n.

MINING	
Kailan	10/3 n.
Raub	9 1/4 n.
H.K. Mines	1 1/4 n.

LANDS	
Hotels	3 1/2 b.
Lands	3 1/2 b.
Lands 4% Debentures	100 n.
Shal Lands Sh.	11 1/2 n.
Humphreys	3.95 n.
H.K. Realities	100 n.

UTILITIES	
Trams	17.70 sa.
Peak Trams (old)	7.40 n.
Peak Trams (new)	3 1/4 n.
Star Ferries	81 n.
Y. Ferries	81 n.
China Lights (old)	7.05 b.
China Lights (new)	7.05 b.
H.K. Electric (old)	40 1/4 n.
H.K. Electric (new)	30 3/4 n.
Macao Electric (old)	17 1/4 n.
Macao Electric (new)	16 1/4 n.
Sandakan Lights	11.20 b.
Telephones (old)	25.70 n.
Telephones (new)	10 1/2 n.

INDUSTRIALS	
Cad. Macn. (Ord.)	14.00 n.
Cad. Macn. (Prof.)	12 n.
Canton Ice	1 n.
Cements	18.20 n.
H.K. Ropes	7 b.

STORES, ETC.	
Dairy Farms	10 1/2 n.
Watsons	10.35 b.
Lane Crawford	9 n.
Sincere	2.15 n.
Wing On (H.K.)	39 n.
Powell Ltd.	1.90 n.

COTTON MILLS	
Ewo Sh.	37 n.
Shal Cotton Sh.	165 n.

MISC.	
H.K. Govt. 4 1/2% (1934)	98 n.
H.K. Govt. 3 1/2% (1940)	94 n.
Ch. Govt. 5% 1925 GSBds.	35 1/2 n.
H.K. Entertainments	7 b.
Constructions (old)	1.80 b.
Constructions (new)	1 n.
Vibro Piling	7.70 n.
Marsmans Inv. (Lon.)	7/6 n.
Marsmans Inv. (H.K.)	2/0 n.

IMMIGRATION LAW	
At the monthly meeting of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce yesterday it was decided to ask the Government to extend the period for the enforcement of the Immigration Law to February 14, in view of the Chinese New Year on January 27, when there will be an increased number of travellers.	

ONLY	
6	

Shopping Days	
To	

CHRISTMAS	

FOR EVACUATES	

HONGKONG'S NEWS	

OF THE WEEK	

Every Monday the "Telegraph"	
publishes a full page of local news covering the whole of the preceding week.	

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Next Change	
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THE STORY OF THE TEN YEARS WHEN AMERICA LOST ITS HEAD!	

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THE ROARING 20's	
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THE ROARING 20's	
HUMPHREY BOGART	

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

M.Y. "HOEGH TRANSPORTER"

On instructions from the Underwriters, Tenders are invited for the Single Screw Motor Vessel "HOEGH TRANSPORTER" as she lies submerged in her damaged condition in Singapore Roads.

The vessel is of the Shelter Deck type designed for a carrying capacity of 9,000 tons and fitted with Diesel Machinery.

A large part of the cargo has been removed from the vessel. Tenders should be forwarded to the underwriter not later than 31st December, 1940, who will supply any further information available.

The highest, or any, tender may not necessarily be accepted.

RITCHIE & HESSET,
Union Building,
Singapore.

NOTICE

DEFENCE REGULATIONS 1940

The following rates will be charged for mailing single copies of the following newspapers abroad:—

South China Morning Post	China and Macao
16 cents per copy	

British Empire and Foreign	25 cents per copy
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The Hongkong Telegraph	China and Macao
14 cents per copy	

British and Foreign	20 cents per copy
25 cents Saturdays	

FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

What to do to help a child

Anyone knowing of a child who has been assaulted, neglected, or ill-treated in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to health, or knowing of a parent who is seeking advice on any matter concerning a child, would be doing an act of kindness by communicating at once with—

The Hon. General Secretary, H.K.S.P.C., Old City Hall, 1st floor, 49, Poulton Road.

The Inspector, 82 Stone Nullah Lane, 2nd Floor.

The Inspector, 52, Argyle St., Kowloon.

All further steps will be taken, and expenses borne, by the Society. The informant's name will be kept strictly private, except in cases where malice is proved.

Ottawa Moves To Stop Inflation

Cost of Living Bonuses
SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

OTTAWA, Dec. 17 (UP).—Seeking to avert a threat of inflation, the Government to-day announced a virtual standstill of orders covering basic wage rates with "cost of living bonuses."

These had been substituted for increases for the duration equalising the 6.2 per cent increase in living costs.

The basic rate equals the 1926 to 1929 average level.

Father Joining Up To Get Revenge

James Grimmond, of Coldharbour-lane, S.E., who lost five children in a torpedoed seavacue liner, said: "I'm joining up to get my revenge."

"All I want is a front-line job with a chance to get at the Jerries."

"I don't call this war. I call it cold-blooded murder."

He is forty-two, and joined up in 1918 at the age of sixteen.

His home was wrecked by a bomb some time before the five children left for Canada. They, with their parents and the family's five other children, were safe in a shelter.

Mrs. Grimmond said "Hitler can't break our spirit. We'll see this through."

BANKS

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE and General Banking Business Transacted.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened and FIXED DEPOSITS received for local or shorter periods in Local or Other Currencies at rates which will be quoted on application.

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS also opened in Local Currency and Sterling with interest allowed at rates obtainable in London.

The Bank's Head Office in London undertakes Executor & Trustee business and claims recovery of British Income Tax overpaid on terms which may be ascertained at any of its Agencies or Branches.

R. A. CAMIDGE, Manager

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.
Head Office—15, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.3.

Authorized Capital £1,000,000
Subscribed Capital £1,000,000
Paid-up Capital and Reserve £1,254,669

BRANCHES:
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Branches:
Bangkok, Bombay, Calcutta, Cebu, Hongkong, Kanton, Kowloon, London, Lyons, Manila, Medan, Singapore, Shanghai, Siam, Soerabaya, Tientsin, Yokohama.

HONGKONG BRANCH
Every description of Banking and Exchange Business Transacted.

TRUSTEE AND EXECUTORSHIP UNDERTAKEN.
Current Accounts opened in Local Currency and Fixed Deposits received in Local Currency and Sterling on terms which may be ascertained on application.

D. BENSON, Manager

Sea War Library Service

Ninety thousand books and magazines have been distributed among 3,000 ships by the Sea War Library Service, Selwyn House, Endsleigh-street, W.C.1. The collection has been assisted by librarians throughout Britain, who have encouraged people to give books to be forwarded to the docks.

During the next twelve months more books will be needed, and more money required for buying new books on a larger scale. The committee speak with confidence in their first annual report that their activities will bring them the continued support they will need "to enable the Service to carry on with the provision of literature for Merchant Seamen."

After they were safely aboard and a final search had been made, the pilot resumed his patrol and handed over the prisoners at the end of the day.

On the return journey to the base, he sighted yet another submarine on the surface.

This he machine-gunned, as he had no bombs left. After the second attack the submarine crash-dived.

Although in the open sea, and in the face of an approaching storm, Flight-Lieut. Campbell alighted, fastened his flying boots, and the wreckage and saved four of the submarine's crew.

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PRINCE IS 5—Despite the monsoons of Hitler's alarm, Prince Edward celebrates his fifth birthday, with his parents, the Duke and Duchess of Kent, and sister, Princess Alexandra.

"Dead-Eye Dick" Sank 2 U-Boats In 2 Days

AN R A F pilot sank two Italian submarines in two days. He is Acting Flight-Lieut. William Weir Campbell, and his exploits have won him the D.F.C.

He has also gained a nickname. His colleagues now call him "Dead-Eye Dick." He destroyed the two submarines with bombs and attacked another with machine-gun fire, says the Air Ministry News Service.

The first was sunk by dive-bombing.

There were two bursts about the conning-tower, and immediately the nose of the submarine rose sharply out of the water. The hull slid back vertically to the bottom.

Air bubbles and oil at once appeared on the sea.

The tail gunner reported seeing debris floating in the area for some time after the bombs had burst.

Next day the same flying-boat sighted an Italian submarine on the surface. Again "Dead-Eye Dick" dived to attack. He scored direct hits beside the conning-tower.

Saved Four

Although in the open sea, and in the face of an approaching storm, Flight-Lieut. Campbell alighted, fastened his flying boots, and the wreckage and saved four of the submarine's crew.

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Magistrate Calls Two Youths, Liars

Prison For Loitering
"I dislike to tell you what I think of you. It is difficult to say which of you is the bigger liar, but you are both liars," said Mr E. Himsworth in the Kowloon Magistracy this morning when he sentenced two youths, Cheung Lo-pan, 18, and L. A. Castro, 18, to six months and six weeks imprisonment respectively, for loitering in Chatham Apartments.

Cheung was also charged with possession of an instrument (a jack) for an unlawful purpose.

Both defendants denied the charges. Cheung said he went there to look for a friend named Chan and also to see a European named T. B. Wilson, while Castro said that he had been playing soft-ball and was going away when he was arrested.

Found On The Roof
Yai Ming-fai, a "boy" employed at the Chatham Apartments said that while working in the drawing room about 3.30 p.m. last Saturday he saw both defendants enter the house. First defendant said he wanted to see someone called Chan. Witness replied that there was nobody by that name living there and defendants left.

Later first defendant entered through another door and went upstairs by the lift. Witness went out to find him and the "boy" found Cheung on the roof. He was brought down and taken to the office of Mrs Gardiner who manages the apartment house. The fold corroborated and described how Mrs Gardiner extracted the jack from behind Cheung's neck, where it was concealed.

A Chinese policeman said he was on duty in Chatham Road that afternoon and saw Castro looking suspiciously at the apartments. In the meantime he got word that a man had been arrested for entering the apartments and he arrested Castro and took him to the house. There both defendants acknowledged that they knew each other.

Previous Convictions
First defendant had four previous convictions which the magistrate read out. Bound over in \$10 for one year for larceny in 1939, Cheung, in the same month, was sentenced to three weeks for loitering. No sooner was he out of gaol than he was convicted for larceny and given six months. Not long after he was out, he was again sentenced for six months for shop-lifting and larceny and put under Police supervision for two years. He left prison only four months ago.

Cheung was sentenced to three months imprisonment on each count, the sentences to run consecutively. He said he would appeal.

Castro had only recently finished a three years term at the Aberdeen Industrial School for larceny from a house. He was sentenced to six weeks imprisonment.

Castro told the magistrate that both his parents were dead, and that until recently he was always with an uncle and slept at nights in the doorway of the King's Park Club.

Mr Himsworth said: "You are obviously keeping very bad company."

Exchange At A Glance

SELLING

T.T. London	1/2 1/2
Demand London	1/2 1/2
T.T. Shanghai	3/5
T.T. Singapore	52 1/4
T.T. Japan	102 1/2
T.T. India	82 1/2
T.T. U.S.A.	23 1/2
T.T. Manila	40 1/4
T.T. Batavia	43 1/4
T.T. Bangkok	14 1/2
T.T. Saigon	101 1/2
T.T. France	101 1/2
T.T. Switzerland	99 1/2
T.T. Australia	1/0 1/2

BUYING

4 m/s L/C London	1/3 1/4
4 m/s D/P London	1/3 1/4
4 m/s L/C U.S.A.	24 1/4
4 m/s France	Norm.
30 d/s India	84 1/2
U.S. Cross rate in London	4.02 1/2
U.S. Cross rate in N.Y.	4.03 1/2

U. S. SETS NEW PACE IN PLANES

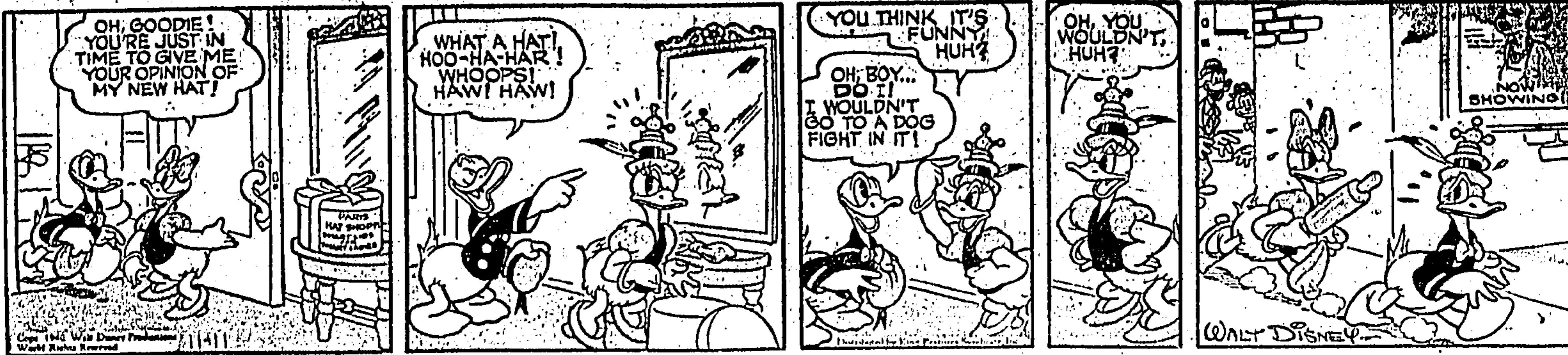
MR H. F. JAMES has brought the Ministry of Aircraft Production encouraging news from the U.S.A.—news of the speed-up in delivery of aeroplanes and aeroplane parts to Britain.

He recently returned to England from a tour of inspection for the Ministry.

"I can state with complete confidence," he said, "that the supply of planes will be stepped-up very rapidly in the very near future."

Mr James is director of the Northern Aluminium Company. Main object of his trip, it is understood, was to clear up problems of getting quick and satisfactory deliveries of aeroplane materials.

DONALD DUCK



By Walt Disney

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Tiger Standish, ace of British secret agents, meets

THERE WAS THE SOUND OF A SNORT. "But the devil of it is," complained Sir Barker Bellamy, bitter, "that I am being held directly responsible. As though my Department had to act as surety for every chit of a child who wants its bottom smacked!"

Tiger Standish, who had dropped in to make his daily report, looked at his superior officer, Y.I., that branch of British Intelligence which was concentrating on counter-espionage work, was being kept pretty busy these days, but he felt a certain amount of sympathy for Bellamy as the latter poured out his plaint. Later, he was due to transfer that sympathy from his superior to himself—but at the moment this knowledge was mercifully hidden from him.

So it was that he lightly put the question: "What are you bell-aching about now, you old buzzard?"

Bellamy sighed as though in all the world he could not find an understanding soul.

"You've heard of Blanca Tedworth, I suppose?" his tone now rancid.

"Well, I'm not quite blind in both eyes yet—you mean the wench who was palling up to the Nazi bosses until quite recently?"

"That's the one. She's the daughter of Lord Bevington. Handsome as a wild colt. Got smitten with this Hitler-Youth bug and was willing to throw up everything, including her nationality, in order to lend a hand in the movement which was to regenerate the world. Excuse me for a moment while I spit."

Having done this office, Bellamy continued: "There's nothing very much wrong with the girl fundamentally, I suppose—but, as I say, she ought to have had her bottom smacked at intervals from the age of seven upwards. That would have taught her sense. She's nineteen now, by the way. As you know, she's only just been able to get out of Germany; the Nazi bosses, including Himmler, Chief of the Gestapo, thought she might have a dangerous influence on her former pal, whose name need not be mentioned, and so, at the outbreak of war, they played safe and popped her into a concentration camp. Not one of the worst ones, it's true, but sufficiently bad to cure the fair Blanca of her former besotted infatuation. Last week, owing to the influence of the American Embassy in Berlin (who, of course, are looking after British affairs now) she was released. The authorities, after the ballyhoo tripe of the Mitford girl, were not going to take any chances; consequently there were no reporters, no news-reel operators, and no publicity whatsoever when Blanca Tedworth landed in Folkestone four days ago."

Standish, putting up a huge hand to his mouth, did his best to hide a yawn.

"How many more instalments, B?" he enquired. "Only two—and they're both very short. The first is that the girl has disappeared, and the second is that you've damned well got to find her."

Tiger bounded up from his chair.

"Well, that's a nice thing to say!" he cried indignantly. "Haven't you got anything better to do than to rend me scotching round after a chit of a child?"

Bellamy took his time to light the short, black pipe which he had just filled with evil-looking plug tobacco. "I thought you'd say that," he replied amiably, "but if it's any consolation to you to know it, this is a very important job of work."

"It's a job for the police!"

"No," he was uncompromisingly informed, "it's a job for Y.I. And you're the man to do it—there's no one better."

Tiger began to fume afresh.

"Where do we come into it?" he retorted. "Principally because our agent, Y.Z., was able to see the Tedworth girl just after she crossed the German frontier, and being hard-pressed, gave her the plans of an entirely new raiding bomber about which the Nazis do not want anything known. You remember that business over Belgium the other day?"

"You mean when a German plane shot down two Belgian fighters?"

Bellamy nodded.

"Yes. Those fighters were shot down because the pilot had had the strictest instructions that in no circumstances whatever was he to allow his machine to be examined by anybody outside Germany—not even by a neutral."

Tiger sat down again and filled his own pipe. This business was becoming more interesting; it was just like Bellamy to hide the truth as long as possible. One result, he supposed, of having spent over thirty years in Intelligence.

"Did she hand over the plans?" he asked.

This time Bellamy shook his head.

"When I said just now that she 'landed at Folkestone' it was more or less a figure of speech. I should have said she was supposed to land at Folkestone. The truth—or what at the present time must pass for the truth—is that when her father, Lord Bevington, went to meet her at the landing-stage, he found no one amongst the passengers who corresponded in the slightest degree to his daughter."

Tiger whistled.

"Then—"

"Who can say what happened?" Bellamy shrugged his shoulders like a weary Titan who finds the weight of his labours intolerable; "all we do know is that a girl resembling Blanca Tedworth got on the boat at Calais. . . . It's up to you to discover the rest, my boy."

"I'm not Sherlock Holmes."

"And I'm certainly not Watson," rejoined his superior, and turned to the papers on his desk.

The certainly wasn't good enough, and Standish voiced his disgust.

"She's probably at the bottom of the Channel—what's the good of sending me off on a wild-goose chase like this? And where the hell do I start, anyway?"

Whereupon Bellamy became as mysterious as though he were playing himself in a sensational film. "Going first of all to the door, as though suspecting a possible cave-dropper, he closed the heavy mahogany again, and returned to his seat. After that, he spoke in a whisper for a few more minutes. At the end of that time, Tiger Standish got up and knocked the ashes out of his pipe."

"It looks like one chance in a million," he summed up. "It's the one chance in a million that sometimes comes off, my boy," was the answer he received.

THE COUNTESS OF MITTENDEN HAD LEFT LONDON ("who wants to be blown to bits by those dreadful bombs? How I do hate that man Hitler!") and was residing in her country seat, Neverne Castle, in the county of Sussex. The move had had its disadvantages. The staff problem, for instance, whilst it was extremely difficult to

THE LADY with the GAUDY PAST

get good servants during wartime in London, it was still more difficult to procure them in the country. The ordinary woman might have managed, but the Countess had her own fixed, and somewhat peculiar, ideas about the servant question; she would employ no one on the male side who was not both young and good-looking. This determination of hers added considerably, of course, to the difficulties of the present situation.

What was more, Neverne Castle was situated in a very lonely part of what has frequently been described as the most delectable county in England. The castle, which dated back to the early 14th century, was not, strictly speaking, built on Sussex land at all; it had been erected, according to history, by a direct descendant of William the Conqueror, who had perched his new home on the very edge of the Sussex cliffs. But the intervening centuries, with the assistance of the sea, had caused serious erosion to take place. With this result, the mainland and the castle kept, there was now a stretch of over 200 yards of sea, which, for several months in the year, tumbled and foamed, shrieked and shilled, banged and battered against both the cliffs on the mainland and those which surrounded the present abode of the Countess of Mittenen.

The man who was bound for Neverne Castle, there to take up the position of new butler, sat upright in the small boat which acted as ferry. The rustic who propelled the oars looked at him with a kind of shrewd, quizzical interest. "I 'peas as 'ow you'll like it there, maister," he vouchsafed; "it'll be all right if you keeps on the right side of 'er ladyship. Leastways," with a snigger that might have been the clunk for some secretly amusing thought, "that's what they do say round about 'ere."

By
Sidney Horler

"Mind your own business," was the stiffly-uttered comment.

"I was only givin' ye a bit of advice, maister," went on the rustic; "but seeing that his passenger was in no mood for further converse, he concentrated on 'is oarsmanship and, within a few moments, brought his boat to the castle landing-place."

A few minutes later, John Giles was interviewing his new mistress. The Countess of Mittenen, 35 years of age, and a bit 55 at that. As though to fight the ravages of time, her ladyship resorted to a make-up that was not so much elaborate as excessive; her face looked as though one would have to scrape off the paint with a knife before coming to the skin beneath. Her hands, too, were unpleasant—veiny, dead-coloured, with the long, pointed nails looking as though they had been dipped in blood.

"Yes," she said in a hoarse low-pitched voice that grated on her listener's ears, "your references appear to be quite satisfactory. Giles, and when I spoke to the agency this morning, they said that they were sure you would give me good service. I hope you will be very comfortable here, Giles."

Conventional words, but the new butler did not like the smile which accompanied them. He remembered the words of the guarded old butman. They were likely, he considered, to become prophetic.

"I hope, too, your ladyship, that I shall give you good service," he replied—but he spoke in German instead of English.

The Countess put one of the claw-like hands up to her mouth. Even so, a sharp cry of mingled surprise and alarm broke from her lips.

"Who are you?" she demanded sharply, one hand now to her breast; "and why do you speak to me in German?"

The new butler did a surprising thing. Instead of replying, he took from his waistcoat pocket a disc that seemed to be made of silver, or some other gleaming metal. "This is why," he replied, showing it to her. And now his voice held only authority.

IN A DUNGEON FAR BELOW THE ROOM IN WHICH THIS CONVERSATION HAD TAKEN PLACE, a girl who, but for her modern dress, might well have been a captive of the original owner of Neverne Castle, crouched against the damp wall. She crouched for a very good reason—around her right ankle was a band of steel. Attached to this was a thin, flexible, but very strong chain made of the same metal, terminating in a staple driven well into the 15-foot thick wall.

The girl was Blanca Tedworth. So bemused was she in her misery that, for many hours now, she had remained practically motionless in that animal-like position. Every vestige of faith that she had had was now gone; she realised that her plight, although pitiable, although, indeed, almost incredible, was hopeless. Chained there like an animal, deep down beneath the earth, with no light beyond the storm lantern, whose wick was trimmed from time to time, kept sometimes without food and even without water, she longed for death.

But death seemed still far away. It was her robust strength that kept her alive—and, for the first time since she was born, she cursed her youth!

One of her many troubles was that she could not remember the immediate past; she could recall getting on the cross-Channel boat along with a lot of soldiers coming on leave, at Calais; she could recall going on deck and talking to two officers; one of whom she remembered; was wearing the uniform of the Tank Corps. It was this officer, who asked her if she would like to have some coffee—and, because after all she had gone through, the very sight of a British face made her almost ill with happiness, she had agreed.

They had gone down to the saloon, her companion had ordered a whisky and soda for himself and a coffee for her; she had taken a first sip—and then that awful darkness had come, enveloping her about like a black blanket. . . .

There was nothing between that memory and the infinitely more horrible one of waking up in this dreadful place, which she now knew to be a prison-cell from which there could never be any escape. What had happened to her; where she had been taken; who was responsible for taking her there—all these things were insoluble mysteries. The brutal fact that this was really and not a nightmare, out of which she might mercifully awake, was sufficient. She wished she were dead.

WITH THE FIRST SOUND OF THE BOLT OUTSIDE THE DOOR BEING DRAWN, she awoke out of her lethargy, springing to her feet, her captive's chain rattling as she did so.

It was a man who now came into the place; before, it had been women. Two women—one thick-set with a cold, hard, unpleasant face, who looked like a servant of some kind, and then another—a more horrible creature this—because, possibly due to fear of showing her face, she wore a mask. Both these women had frightened her out of her few remaining wits, but neither had induced her to tell the truth. She would not tell the truth—not even if they killed her for it. Because, she felt, this resolve was the only possible reparation she could make to her country for her former foolhardy conduct. Besides, so much was at stake.

The intruder, who was a stranger to her, drew up a three-legged stool, which was one of the few pieces of "furniture" in the dungeon, and regarded her intently.

"Do you want to leave here, Miss Tedworth?" he asked. "Because if you do, it will be quite a simple matter, you know."

She mistrusted his face just as much as she mistrusted his voice. Like the women before him, he would name his conditions; she knew that.

"You realise, of course, that very quickly I must be found?" My father is a very important man in this country.

The man put up his hand, smiling as he did so. "How do you know you are in England, Miss Tedworth? You may still be in Germany."

She shook her head.

"No, I know that's not true."

"Why do you say that?"

"Because if I were in Germany, there would not be all this secrecy—that woman who comes in wearing a mask would be able to show her face."

This time the man's smile was even more odious.

"Perhaps the mask she wears is much more pleasant than the face underneath," he commented; "but we waste time. What did you do with those plans, Miss Tedworth? Tell me that and you shall at least be given a more suitable lodging. You must find this place very damp."

As though to give emphasis to his words, he pulled up his coat collar and shivered. It must be a realistic bit of acting, but it made no impression on her.

"I tell you what I have repeatedly told those two women—I know nothing whatever about any plans."

He jumped up.

"Why do you say that?"

"Because if I were in Germany, there would not be all this secrecy—that woman who comes in wearing a mask would be able to show her face."

A man smile spread over her pale face.

"I'm not afraid to die—I want to die," she replied.

"The further words died on her lips; the man opposite her saw her face grow rigid, whilst her eyes seemed to be on the point of falling out of her head."

"What is it?" he asked gruffly.

The reply did not come from the girl; it came from behind.

"Drop that gun—and put up your hands!" said a voice that sounded like an accusing judge; "you have played your last masquerade as a British officer, Herr Otto Weiss; your famous impersonations as a captain of the Tank Corps are now at an end. Drop that gun, I tell you."

Even so the Nazi spy would have got his revenge by shooting the girl had not Blanca Tedworth suddenly ducked. The bullet which had been intended for her brain squashed itself against the dripping wall of the dungeon.

The next moment Tiger Standish had leapt on the man from behind and had brought him crashing to the uneven stone floor. The chained girl watched, in mingled fascinated horror and relief, the terrible struggle which ensued.

The German was strong, Standish was stronger. Moreover, he was fired by a burning sense of anger. That any girl, let alone a girl of Blanca Tedworth's gentle upbringing, should have been treated like that was a slight to the whole British race.

The third blow that he smashed to the Nazi's face completed the job.

"THANKS for the flowers, B," replied Standish, "but after all it wasn't so difficult. After you had given me that tip about the Countess of Mittenen, I made a few enquiries on my own, and discovered that she had been one of the most prominent pro-Hitlerites before the war—a fervent Nuremberger and an even more fervent Municher."

A lady with a gaudy past in more than one respect. Delving a little deeper into her past, I found that, amongst her many lovers—and during her husband's lifetime, too, naughty girl!—was the Baron von Stumm. As you know, B—or if you don't, you ought to know—the Baron was one of the high lights in the Intelligence Service. As a matter of fact he was a big bug in the Intelligence Service. When the Nazis came into power, they took over all the archives of the old Secret Service—and, you may bet, with characteristic German thoroughness, they marked the Countess of Mittenen's name with an X. They decided, of course, that she was very likely to be useful later on."

"How useful she was proved by what I saw in that dungeon at Neverne Castle. She had been warned to expect a visitor, and when an elderly woman, accompanied by a British officer—"

Standish waved his pipe as though it were a musical conductor's baton.

"My dear B!" he chided; "where are the brains of yesterday? The 'elderly lady' was Blanca Tedworth, of course."

TURN TO Page 7, Column Five

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ENGLAND'S HOMES

MANY people are concerned about the peace terms the world will have after the war. They might also give some heed to another matter of very great importance and one that comes very near to the lives of the people. That is the building and rebuilding of England's homes.

It has happened in the past that for one reason or another building operations have been unduly hurried and conducted for the most part in a haphazard way. At one time it was the urgent demands of the period of industrial expansion all over the country. The ugly and insanitary product has been the shame and regret of subsequent generations. The next period of wholesale building was after the last war, when some of the mistakes of the previous period were repeated.

Now another such building expansion may be in the near future, and it is all-important that the country should profit by experience and do something worthy of Britain. It is not too soon to think and plan, and to further the purposes of the newly appointed Minister of Works and Buildings.

To this end the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects pleads for the early and complete recognition of the function of the trained designer and planner in this reconstruction, so that new dwellings may be made that shall give the fullest possibilities of healthy lives for our people. Unless there is vision and trained skill in planning from the outset there will be the same dreary failures as in the past. Even for the smallest houses there should be the highest available architectural skill.

There will be unlikeliest opportunities for beauty and utility in design and construction. From the ashes of the cities' slums should arise wisely-planned garden townships where the sun can find its way into the homes of the poorer classes.

All this was said twenty-five years ago, and what came of it? The situation was summed up in the President's few words—the nation trained its architects and then declined to use them. It will be unforgivable if this accusation is allowed to hold good at the end of the present war.

Hitler First Shook Germany Ten Years Ago

AMID such a "furnace-hissing" of events as that in which our common lot has been cast during these latter years it is easy to lose all reckoning of time. I may, perhaps, be permitted to recall the grim and fateful anniversary that fell a few weeks ago; for until that self-same mid-September week in 1930, not one person in a million outside Germany could remember ever having heard so much as the name of the man who to-day imposes his barbaric dominion over four-fifths of the Continent of Europe.

It is true, of course, that the miserable, melodramatic, misbegotten fiasco of Hitler's Munich beer-hall putsch had occupied the headlines for a few brief days in November, 1923, but like Kapp and many other nameless adventurers of that turbulent period, the little Austrian painter had soon relapsed into a total oblivion.

The event which suddenly hurled him like a flashing meteor into the world's ken was the general election of September 14, 1930. Competent observers of the campaign had predicted some increase in the "Fascist" vote—Fascist being at that time the generic term for all people of Hitler's kidney—but no one had been prepared for anything like the eight-fold multiplication of the vote from the 810,000 recorded two years previously to 6,400,000, which raised the Hitlerist representation in the Reichstag from a mere 12 to 107 in a House of 575.

The Alien

At a single bound Hitlerism had leapt up from a contemptible obscurity to second among the swarm of parties which competed for the control of the Weimar Republic. A notable absentee from the embattled ranks of his party in the new Reichstag was Hitler himself, who, as an alien, was disqualified from membership of that assembly.

It is a curious commentary on the methods and mentality of the Weimar Republic that he had never been expelled from the country as an undesirable alien after his arrogant proclamation of himself as "President of the Reich" at the time of his abortive Munich rebellion.

Hitler now became overnight the talk of the world. Newspapers everywhere hastened to devote long articles to his record, attainments and intentions, and speculation both inside and outside Germany was rife as to whether Germany might not be on the eve of another and more formidable Hitler putsch. The street brawling tactics of his storm troopers and the high-flying pretensions of his rhetoric during the campaign had certainly lent some colour to such a possibility.

"A Serious Menace"

Hitler, however, was by now firmly resolved not to let himself be bowled out a second time by premature revolt. He contented himself with an open avowal of his ultimate intention to overthrow the parliamentary regime, but declared that he would employ only parliamentary means in encompassing his end.

This undertaking, like every other undertaking he has ever made, he eventually broke, but not until February, 1933, when he and his gang set fire to the Reichstag building in order to manufacture an excuse for

A Backward Look at His Early Threats and Promises

proscribing enough of their political opponents to assure themselves the parliamentary majority which appeared otherwise improbable.

Nevertheless, Putsch or no Putsch, his electoral success in September, 1930, caused an immediate and universal uneasiness abroad which has never ceased to grow from that day to this. As early as September 10, only five days after the election, the Berlin correspondent of "The Daily Telegraph" was already writing that Hitler's movement must be regarded as portending a serious menace to the tranquillity of Germany, and therefore of Europe.

In the light of what we know now and have learned from the wisdom that comes after the event, that may read to-day like an ironic understatement, but it affords some measure of the apprehension inspired even at that remote hour in the minds of acute political observers.

About 10 days after the elections Hitler gave a comprehensive account of his aims in the course of evidence at a trial in Leipzig of three young

By **J. C. JOHNSTONE**

subalterns who were accused of attempting to subvert the army in the interests of the Nazi party. These aims included inculcating the "martial idea" in the German people, "protecting" Germany and "setting her free" and abolishing the peace treaties. When asked how he proposed to abolish the treaties, he replied, "By diplomatic means, and I state this categorically here—by the complete evasion of these treaties by legal, and if necessary by illegal, means."

Such were the aims for which Hitler attracted 6,400,000 votes in September, 1930, and many more millions of votes in subsequent years till he was complete master of the Reich—aims the logical and literal fulfilment of which is before our eyes to-day.

The treaties have been evaded by a spectacular series of tricks and perjuries, the "martial idea" has been ingrained in the minds of the whole nation to a degree for which history—even the history of Frederick II's Prussia—affords no parallel, and what, according to Hitler, is the destruction of Poland, Denmark, Norway, Holland and the rest but a matter of "protecting" and "liberating" the German people?

The question has often been put why millions of Germans should have begun to throw themselves into the arms of Hitler in the autumn of 1930, and dupes of German propaganda

have attributed it to the sense of "despair" under which the German nation was alleged to be languishing. The truth, on the contrary, is that at that moment the Germans had the best of reasons for being eminently satisfied with their policy of the preceding six years, the Stresemann policy of so-called "fulfilment."

As the first-fruits of this policy they had secured, under the Young Plan, a reduction of the outstanding capital liability on account of reparations to £1,950,000,000 and an alleviation of the annual payments due under the Dawes Plan. Above all, in consideration of their undertaking to carry out the Young Plan, they had obtained the evacuation of the Rhineland by the French on July 1, 1930, four and a half years before the Treaty date.

Yet at the September elections, less than three months after the Rhineland evacuation, the mood of the German people was already "Thank you for nothing." The success of Hitler was a formal notice served on the world that, with the Rhineland now free of French troops, he was preparing to cheat her way

back into a position where she could resume the pursuit of world domination, which had been frustrated by the defeat of 1918.

In the following passage Mr. Edgar Mowrer has well represented the sort of thing Germans were saying to themselves: "Why should they be punished for whatever faults the disowned Imperial rulers might have committed? The German people fought the war in the honest belief that it was defending itself against Western envy and Russian barbarism. What justification could there be for these monstrous and apparently unending reparations?"

Actually, in the six years to 1930 Germany had borrowed from abroad substantially more than she had paid out in reparations, so that during that period she had suffered no real burden at all. Second, moreover, the whole of her reparations debt but practically the whole of her borrowings as well, it is clear that she has been living very comfortably at other people's expense. Finally, let it be recalled that in each of several years preceding the present war she squandered on rearmament more than the whole capital liability for reparations under the Young Plan.

In short, to reimburse the victims of her aggression a part of the damage "suffered" and "inflicted"—was monstrous," but she was ready enough to shoulder a much heavier

burden in order that she might resume her career of aggression. On the basis of the argument summarised by Mr. Mowrer, we are to suppose that when she has been beaten again and has "disowned" Hitler—as she had disowned the Kaiser and Company—she will have acquired a clean sheet from all the crimes she has committed as his accomplice and will feel entitled to be aggrieved if she is not allowed to go scot free.

What it all comes to is this. About every quarter of a century or so Germany is to expropriate a "Herrenvolk" right to chance her arm at conquering Europe and to elate her biologists on any of her neighbours who refuse meekly to submit to enslavement. If she succeeds she is to retain all the prizes of aggression; if she loses she is to suffer none of the penalties, or, if penalties are exacted, we are to be defeated with an everlasting whine about monstrous injustices, intolerable dictates and all the rest of it, and to be calmed with the plea that in ruthlessly trampling down one neighbour after another, she "honestly" believed she was fighting a war of "liberation" and "self-defence."

Well, Britain and her Allies are going to put an end to this sort of thing once and for all. One of the more fatuous of Goebbels's lies asserts that we aim to "exterminate" the German people. We intend nothing of the kind. But we are certainly going to hold the German people responsible for all the crimes Hitler has committed on their behalf and with their willing and indeed exulting connivance.

We are going to see to it, in fine, that we and the rest of Europe are well and truly protected for evermore against megalomania which has made Germany a pest to all and sundry for close on half a century past.

Accused Of Shooting Sweetheart

An Army private was accused at Oxford recently of "shooting his sweetheart dead after he had found letters from a corporal on her dressing-table."

"While he was waiting for the girl at her lodging in Oxford he found some letters written to her by a Corporal Fuller," said Mr. E. C. Robey, prosecuting. Private Edward George Beasley (29), of the R.A.S.C., was committed for trial, charged with the murder of Irene Sherry (34), a domestic servant, by shooting her with a Service rifle.

Shot Through Heart

Mr. Robey said that the girl was shot through the heart at close range. He alleged that Beasley said in a statement to the police: "When she came in I produced the letters I had found on her dressing-table and she tried to grab them."

"I said, 'You have not been true to me while I was in the Army. It's time you made up your mind after going with me for seven years. I don't intend you having another man to fool like you have me.'"

Gave Himself Up

"She said she would please herself and laughed and treated it as a joke. I picked up my rifle and pointed it at her as she sat in the chair."

"Next thing I heard was a shot. I thought I had missed and I left the house. I wandered about, but in the end I gave myself up."

Women in the New World

By **Annie S. Swan**

MOST of us remember the poet's tribute to women; I learned it in my youth without comprehending the meaning.

O woman in our hours of ease,
Uncertain company and hard to please;

When pain and anguish ring the brow
A ministering angel thou!

All right, but I am sure the majority of us do not aspire to be angels, nor perhaps could pass the necessary test for that high distinction. We are just ordinary women ready to step into the breach when required.

In the big sorrows and crises of life I have noticed that women stand up to them better than men. They seem to have inexhaustible reserves of courage and even cheerfulness which come surprisingly to the surface in times of stress.

As now, for instance. Where should we be without these reserves showing up so splendidly in hours of darkness and danger?

Certainly without them we should be less well-equipped for what is happening—and what may yet happen.

In the new time coming there will be great and urgent demands for the right kind of "home." Whether as wife, mother or sister or friend, every woman will have to make her contribution to it.

A call, a challenge has been made to the womanhood of this country, and the response has been magnificent.

Let us keep it up so that when the struggle is over we may have every

FUNNY SIDE UP

By **Abner Dean**



"And of course Waldo never confides his business troubles to me—except when I buy something!"

EXCLUSIVE "INSIDE STORY" OF DRAMATIC DISMISSAL OF LAVAL

Special to the "Telegraph"



M. Laval

The "United Press" in New York has received from confidential sources in Europe the first details of the account of the mysterious removal of M. Laval, Vice-Premier of France, and the dramatic preceding events. The following is written by Mr Joe Alec Morris, Foreign News Manager.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17 (UP).—Marshal Petain bitterly accused Laval of attempting to seize power in defeated France and forced him to write his own resignation in the presence of the Cabinet. "United Press" advices from Europe disclosed today.

The tense scene at the Cabinet meeting in Vichy found the 84-year-old Chief of State standing face to face with the warthy Vice-Premier who was later detained and was liberated to-day after Herr Abetz, the German special representative, conferred with Marshal Petain.

LIBYAN ADVANCE Fleet Can Follow Up Successes

(REUTERS' MILITARY
COMMENTARY)

LONDON, Dec. 17.—With the British capture of Bardia, which may be expected at any moment, the position of all Italian troops, supplies and transport, which must fill that 20 miles of road, is desperate.

The problem which General Sir Archibald Wavell and the British Cabinet now have to solve is how to make the most use of the great victory—can we destroy the Italian Army in Libya and take over the whole colony?

None of Marshal Graziani's supplies can be replaced as Graziani is severed from his main base by British command of the sea.

Besides the very powerful air which the fleet can give by shelling and bombarding 1,100 miles of the coastal road to Tripoli and intermediate ports, it can enormously aid General Wavell's question of supply by conveying ships into each harbour which falls into our hands as he advances.

Unlike Graziani, the British will not be tied to one road—Sollum is probably available as a supply base by sea to-day—to-morrow it may be Bardia and a few days hence, Tobruk. The movement northwards from Siwa on Tobruk may have a decisive effect on the next British operation—capture of that port.

The resignation of Laval is revealed to be the climax of a long series of incidents and led Marshal Petain to accuse the Vice Premier to his face in the presence of the Cabinet of attempting to wrest more power, not only from the Cabinet but from Marshal Petain himself.

It is understood that Laval desired to take over the now vacant post as Premier. He is also reported to have been seeking power over the Ministry of Interior headed by M. Marcel Peyrou, the secret police and the Ministry of Finance.

Police Search

After his resignation, the Vice Premier's office was searched and the headquarters of the Government in the Hotel Duquesne was surrounded by a force of new "super" police, the Garde de Protection, recruited from young demobilised soldiers and led by ex-leaders of the "Cagoulard."

In addition to these, there were rows of plain clothes secret police of the Surete National and behind them, rows of Republican Guards—in all, more than 1,000 police.

At 11 p.m. on Friday, Laval's chauffeur was arrested as he stood beside the ousted Vice-Premier's automobile. Eight plain clothes police led by the Chief of the Criminal Police, M. Pierre Moncanel, entered the Hotel and arrested Laval's office on the second floor, ripping open the door and entering the office where they notified Laval that he was being taken to a "fixed" residence at his own castle, at Chateau Deau, 20 miles south of Vichy. He was then locked in his castle with his wife and his daughter Josy who is the wife of Count Henric de Chambrun, and for three days armed police maintained lines around the castle.

Flandin Interview

Ten days ago, M. Flandin was called to Vichy by Marshal Petain and was asked if he would succeed Laval if the Vice-Premier quit. Flandin had sounded out the Germans and found that relations would be satis-

factory according to best informed circles.

Early last week, Laval went to Paris to arrange the details of Marshal Petain's return to Versailles. During Laval's absence, the intrigue against him increased swiftly. He either heard of this or guessed it and hurried back to Vichy last Friday, arriving at noon.

He saw Marshal Petain but there was no break at that time.

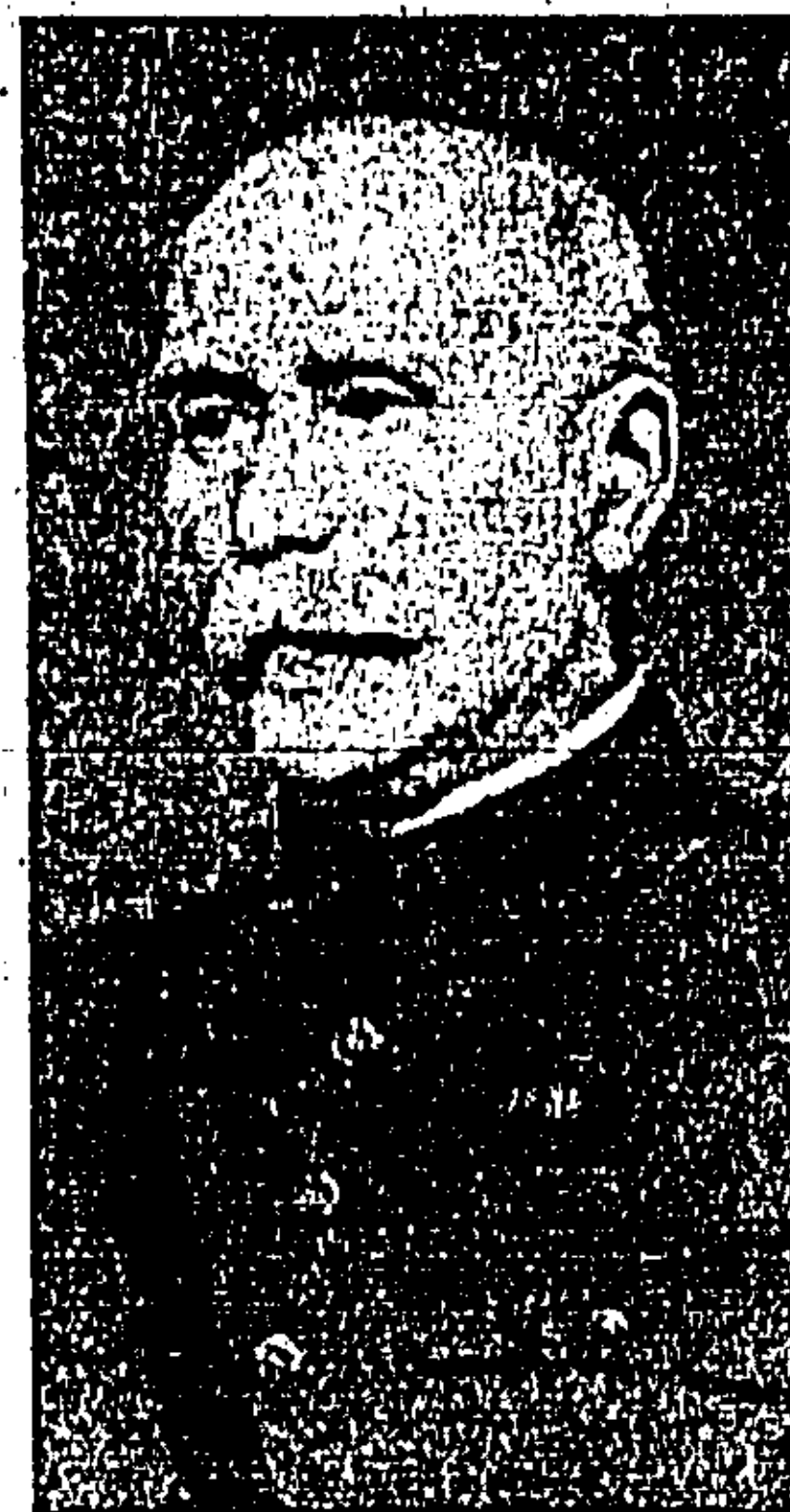
At 5 p.m. Laval acted as President at the Cabinet Council meeting which lasted two hours and went through the normal routine of business.

At 8 p.m. the Council of Ministers met. When Laval entered the room, he discovered the entire Cabinet there, grouped around Marshal Petain at the end of a long table.

Marshal Petain began his attack at once and accused Laval of attempting to seize more power. M. Laval attempted to explain but Marshal Petain declared that he had lost confidence in his Vice-Premier. Either Laval or Petain must quit, the Chief of State informed him and he asked for Laval's resignation.

The Vice-Premier sat down and wrote his resignation. He then returned to his office at 8:10 p.m.

M. Peyrou, who had been isolated, ordered all cables, telephones and radio communications to be cut off and placing troops at bridges and railway stations. He then ordered Laval's private car to be unhooked from the midnight train to Paris, the departure of which was cancelled.



Marshal Petain

HAPPY AUSSIES Activity After A Long Wait

(REUTERS' AT ADVANCED
HEADQUARTERS)

CAIRO, Dec. 17.—The happiest people in the Western Desert to-day are the Australians. They are now coming into their own.

I spent to-day dashing along the front with some of these bronzed enthusiastic soldiers whose only complaint about this war until now had been that they lacked the "hance, as one lieutenant expressed it, "to show our folks that the Anzac way is just as good as his father's."

Now they have it. The wave of enthusiasm that these fresh troops are carrying with them into the desert is exactly the tonic needed by those troops who have been fighting continuously for the past ten days, and whose difficulties are naturally increasing as they penetrate farther into enemy territory.

Some of the most cheerful Australians were riding to the front in five-ton lorries captured from the Italians which have been overhauled and are proving a useful addition to the Australian force.

British troops gave them a special cheer as they passed.

CAMPAIGN WORRIES AXIS

—Nazi Style

LONDON, Dec. 17 (Reuters).—Goebbels seems to have made up his mind that British victories exist only in the imagination. He has missed the opportunity to find consolation in the thought that Allied victories in Africa are largely due to the fact that the British used German methods.

The strategy employed at Sidi Barrani, Sollum and Fort Capuzzo and which now menaces Bardia was the strategy that was so successful in Poland and on the Meuse. But there was one great difference in General Wavell's lightning moves compared with those of the Germans—Britain holds the mastery of the seas.

There would be no Dunkirk if the positions had been reversed. It would have been a 100 per cent. victory and not a man would have escaped.

Strategy Repeated

At Sidi Barrani, notwithstanding the proportionately small force of British engaged, everybody east of the hammer-blow to the coast was captured. The process was repeated with equal success but with the element of surprise, at Sollum.

Of the long trek of 150 miles, sandstorms and long distances communications, it will be surprising if General Wavell is not able to go on repeating the process because he has achieved complete ascendancy in the air, and with Sollum in his possession the possibility of sea transport of supplies becomes practicable.

Threatens Italians In Danger
The Italians are reported to be throwing into Libya every available aircraft in order to restore the balance but they will have difficulty in replenishing their full supplies.

The very vehemence of German and Italian denials confirms the impression that there is serious concern in Rome and Berlin for the fate of all Italy's legions across the waves, whether in Libya, Ethiopia, Albania or the Dodecanese.

The situation generally is very favourable and everything can be hoped for.

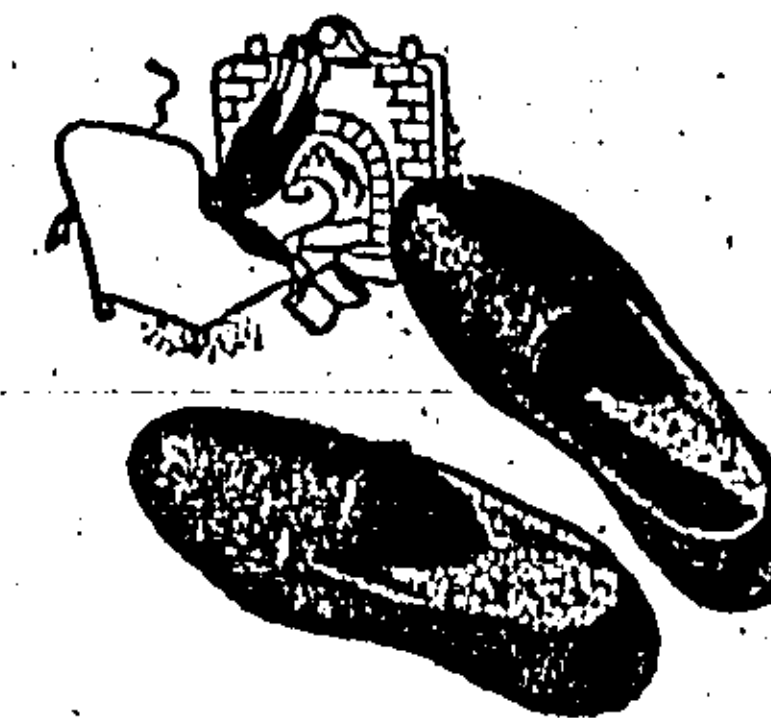
Cost Of Vehicular Ferry Piers

The maintenance of the Vehicular Ferry Piers at Jubilee Street and Jordan Road is to cost a total of \$30,000 during the current financial year.

The expenditure of \$20,000 has already been approved and to-morrow the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council will have before it a further vote of \$10,000. This is caused by the higher cost of materials and freight and the need for replacing more tendering than could be foreseen. An extensive painting programme is also necessary during the dry season.

Gifts

FOR MEN



At the end of a tiring day he'll welcome a pair of comfortable slippers.

From \$12.50 pair.

MACKINTOSH'S LTD.
MEN'S WEAR SPECIALISTS

Expenditure On H.K.V.D.C. Buildings

An additional \$17,400 is to be spent on the construction of the temporary buildings for the Hongkong Volunteer Defence Corps at St. John's Place, and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council will be asked to approve of this vote to-morrow.

It is revealed that as a consequence of a few additions and improvements to the scheme, the total cost of the additional accommodation provided for the H.K.V.D.C., and at the existing headquarters is now estimated at \$117,000 instead of \$111,500.

It was originally estimated that only \$71,500 would be expended during the current financial year, but as the work is already ahead of schedule, a further sum of \$17,400 is now required, leaving \$28,100 to be provided in next year's estimates.

Shanghai's Poor

CHUNGKING, Dec. 17 (Central News).—A terrible toll has been taken of Shanghai's poor and destitute, according to the Shanghai Benevolent Society. Statistics reveal that during the past 11½ months 29,000 persons had died on Shanghai's sidewalks, of whom some 20,000 were children.

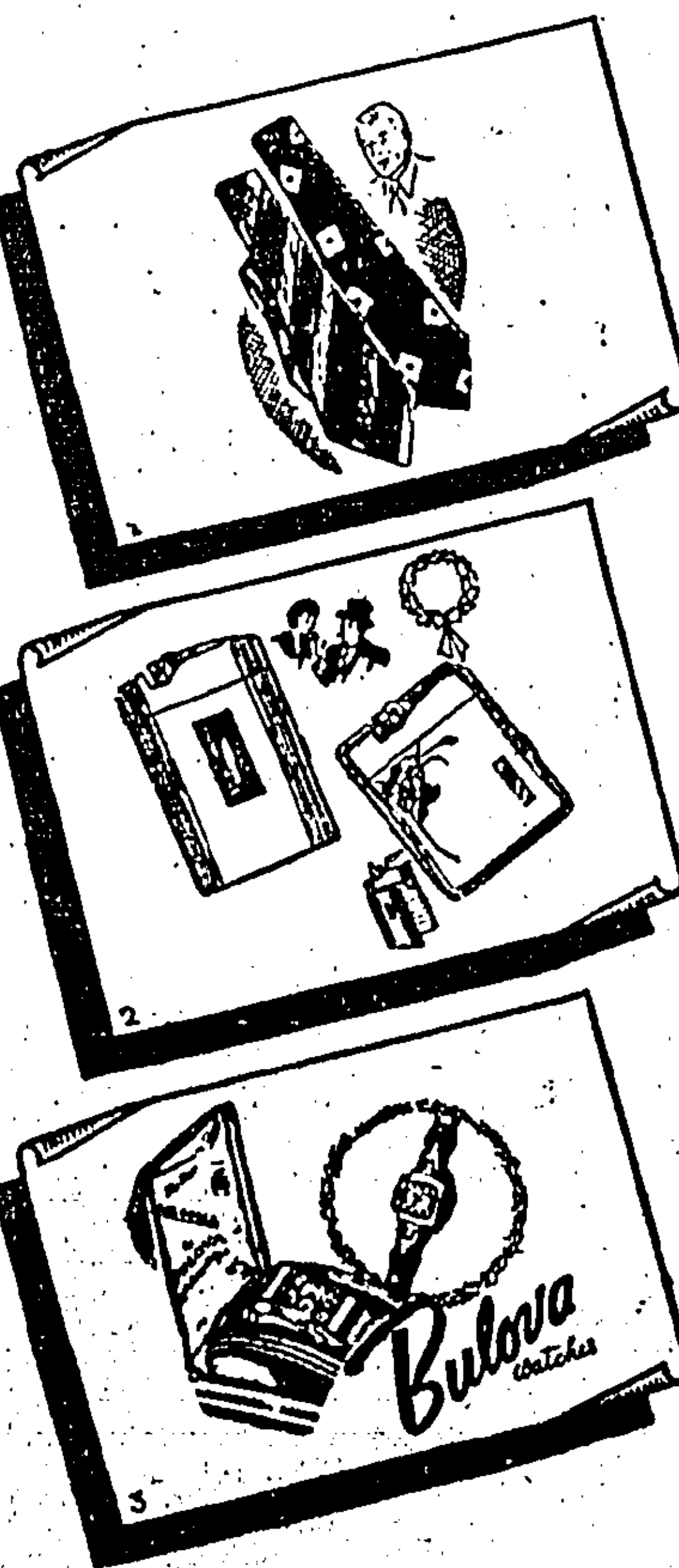
GIFT Suggestions

It's fun to give something out of the ordinary, something the others didn't think of—and here are a few suggestive hints.

1. The Christmas tie joke is out of style—because Wing On's gift neckwear for men offers the latest in style and good taste. There are over hundred different patterns and color combinations from which to choose.

2. Let your gift go up in smoke—in a smart, sociable way. Choose from a grand array of Ronson accessories for the smart smoker—pocket lighters, lighter-cigrette combinations and table and desk lighters and combinations.

3. Outstanding in beauty and dependability as well as value. A Bulova watch is a gift that lasts a lifetime and brings a lifetime of joy and appreciation to whoever receives it.



THE WING ON CO., LTD.

More Money For Anti- Malarial Work

Supplementary Vote

Temporary anti-malarial work undertaken at Tai Hang Valley, Happy Valley, Magazine Gap, Diamond Hill and Green Island, has necessitated unforeseen expenditure amounting to \$8,000. To offset this it is anticipated that there will be equivalent savings in expenditure under another P.W.D. head.

In addition to the above, anti-malarial work is being carried out on behalf of the military authorities at Shouson Hill area at a cost of \$9,000, half of which is recoverable from the military authorities and is being credited to revenue. No funds were provided for the military authorities' share of this expenditure and therefore a further sum of \$4,000.00 is required on that account.

Owing to the increase in the price of anti-malarial mixture from 38 cents a gallon to 44½ cents, an additional \$1,000 is required.

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council is therefore to be asked to approve a supplementary expenditure for anti-malarial work of \$12,000, which will bring the total expenditure for the current financial year to \$43,250.

NOVEMBER RAIDS CASUALTIES

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"
LONDON, Dec. 17 (UP).—It is officially announced that 4,588 civilians were killed, and 6,202 were injured and sent to hospital throughout the United Kingdom as a result of air-raids during November.

It is officially stated that the dead during November comprised 2,280 men, 1,800 women, and 402 children under the age of 10, while the injured included 3,493 men, 2,251 women, and 488 children under the age of 10.

More than 30 German and Austrian refugees arrived in Singapore recently from Siberia via Japan on their way to South America to join their relatives.

XMAS Practical Gifts

- Patent Leather Shoes for Gentlemen,
 - Boxcalf—Shoes with Leather Soles.
 - Dulbox with Domco or Uskide Rubber Soles.
 - Emboss Cowbox with Crepe Soles.
 - Ladies' Silver Shoes.
 - Latest fashion in Brown, Black, Blue Walking—Shoes with crepe soles.
 - Children's Shoes with crepe soles or Leather Soles.
 - Stockings, Socks, Polish, and toys.
- Visit our Shops where you will find many other articles which may interest you.

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WE CARRY STOCKS OF:
MOTOR HOOD CLOTHS
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(for windshields & bonnets)
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NANCY



COLOURFUL STORY OF VICTORIOUS BRITISH INVASION OF LIBYA

CAIRO, DEC. 17 (REUTER).—BRITISH INFANTRY WERE TO-DAY PREPARING TO PARTICIPATE IN A BIG PUSH ACROSS THE FRONTIER INTO LIBYA. THEY WERE WEARY BUT TRIUMPHANT WHEN THEY OCCUPIED SOLLUM YESTERDAY AFTER DAYS OF CHASING THE ITALIANS OUT OF EGYPTIAN TERRITORY.

Sollum is only a tiny port surrounded by a few white houses. Above the port is Upper Sollum, the main feature of which is the large barracks belonging to the Egyptian Army but long ago blown to pieces by British bombardments while the Italians were in occupation.

With a little group of British correspondents and one American, I spent the last few days watching the final stages of our assault on Sollum, the tactics for which were just as well thought out as those at other points in the present campaign.

Sollum was first imperilled a week ago when a British armoured division, after dealing with a whole series of other objectives, came smashing through Bugbug from Sidi Barrani so quickly that the whole Catanzaro Division under General Giuseppe Amico, which had been happily en route to Sidi Barrani on normal relief duty believing the war to be miles away, was taken completely by surprise.

Officers and men, marching down "Victory Avenue" through Egypt. But they marched as prisoners, every two or three hundred of them being guarded by a single cheerful Cockney private and the "Victory Avenue" round which they marched was the road between Sollum and Sidi Barrani which Marshal Graziani has been building several months past.

The road, which will now be a nice present for the Egyptians, would have cost at least £500,000 to build. A fantastic sight met our eyes as we came over the rising ground near Bugbug. We saw the entire valley shrouded in clouds and dust, through which the evening sun glowed while from the dust emerged a seemingly endless stream of dark-green uniforms figures with khaki-clad British soldiers marching smartly at their side.

Cheerful Prisoners
The Italians were chatting, laughing and smoking, apparently completely heedless of the fact that the whole illusion created by Fascist propaganda has been swept aside in a single week.

The "Victory Way" to Sidi Barrani, a typical straight Roman road whose rapid construction was a considerable engineering feat, bears many signs of this propaganda. All along the road are stones erected in honour of Mussolini and at the Sidi Barrani end is a memorial put up even before the road was finished recording that The 12th Artillery Company, in the face of the malice of the enemy, the burning sun and the biting wind, made this road to link together the sands of Libya and Egypt.

Though it is not yet asphalted, this road forms a useful line of communication for the British forces advancing into Libya.

Empty Bugbug
There is hardly anything at Bugbug itself—just a solitary house and a series of Italian water-tanks now guarded by British sentries distributing water to the prisoners as they stream through.

Several more thousands of prisoners had been gathered round the water tanks last night. An infantry major was in charge of their feeding. While we were talking to him an Italian officer came up, saluted and asked for transport for a medical officer to take seven wounded men to hospital. The major fixed him up with a lorry which an Italian doctor was allowed to drive himself.

Meanwhile the crashing of bombs and the roar of anti-aircraft fire has been making Bardia look like Hell in Germany when the Royal Air Force are having a busy night.

Bardia Assailed
From a height on the coast east of Sollum I watched the hottest firework display of flaming ordnance and anti-aircraft fire and bombs that I have seen in this part of the world. It was all part of the encouragement to the Italians at Bardia to capitulate rapidly.

The only reply of the Italians was to send a small number of lone bombers to harass the British troops.

"Victory Avenue"
I have just watched 8,000 Italian soldiers, officers, non-commissioned

Britain In Arms Till Europe Is Freed

LONDON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—"The British Government could never accept any arrangement having the effect of perpetuating German domination of Europe and the British Government are resolutely determined to do all in their power to deliver the nations now under the heel of Germany from that yoke and restore their former independence and prosperity."

This statement was made by Lord Snell in the House of Lords to-day, replying to a request by Lord Noel-Buxton for a Government statement with regard to any suggestions purporting to be aimed at peace terms which had been made to Britain by the German Government since Italy's entry into the war.

Lord Snell recalled the statement by the late Lord Tryon on November 20 that during recent years Germany had frequently suggested that she would be happy to maintain good relations with Britain provided that Germany was given a free hand in Europe.

The British Government had never been prepared to discuss such an arrangement since it could only be at the expense of her former French ally and other free European countries which are at present British allies.

Serious Approaches
Lord Snell added that more serious suggestions to this effect from the Germans were naturally made prior to the outbreak of war. From time to time there had been indications that Germany was prepared to renew these suggestions but not with sufficient authority to justify any statement by the British Government.

India To Intern Italian Prisoners

NEW DELHI, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—Internment camps are being prepared in India for the reception of at least 20,000 Italians from the Western Desert who are expected to be brought to India soon.

Vichy Hopes Italy May Lighten Peace Terms

LONDON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—Though internal policy is believed to be the chief cause of M. Laval's dismissal, reports from Vichy fail entirely to clarify the reasons.

It is probable, however, that Laval's efforts to make Marshal Petain a pliant tool for his pro-German policy encountered increasingly stubborn resistance, which was fortified by the situation in the Mediterranean. It is reported that Laval last week laid far-reaching proposals for internal reform before the Vichy Cabinet together with a new German peace offer, both of which were rejected.

Marshal Petain is reported to have summoned M. Flandin after this. The latter is held to be anxious to adopt a more dignified policy than Laval, and it is thought that he would never consent to placing French colonial bases at the disposal of Germany.

Separate Negotiations
Nevertheless Britain's Mediterranean successes have revived hopes among the group, of which Admiral

Woman Is Convicted Of Treachery

Capital Sentence

LONDON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—A woman was sentenced to death for treachery to-day at Winchester—the first of such sentences to be announced as passed on a woman since the outbreak of war.

She is Dorothy Pamela O'Grady, 42 years old.

The charges on which she was found guilty were that in the Isle of Wight she made a plan likely to assist the military operations of the enemy and that with the object of helping the enemy, she cut a military telephone wire.

The case was heard in camera and the Court was open to the public only at the pronouncement of sentence. O'Grady, a short, dark, bespectacled woman, showed no emotion when the judge passed sentence.

Chinese Playwright Passes

CHUNGKING, Dec. 18 (Central News).—The death occurred yesterday of Mr. Shen Siling, well-known Chinese playwright, who succumbed to typhoid fever. He had written several popular plays which were made into films. Two of his best known pictures are "Children of China" and "Within One Year."

The Lady With The Gaudy Past

(Continued from Page 3).

"Why, of course?"
"Well, what happened was this Otto Weiss, the fellow who has made a practice since this war started of masquerading as some kind or other of British officer—this time he was posing as a captain of the Tank Corps—pulled up to the fair Bianca on board the Channel steamer, asked her to have a drink, dropped something in her coffee, and then when she collapsed, claimed that she was his sister who was subject to fainting fits, and had her removed to a private cabin. There, with a little aid from a stewardess, also in the Nazi pay (the name she goes under, by the way, is Annie Higgins—but she won't do any more Annie Higgins-ing!) he turned a girl of 19 into a woman of 60."

"What about passports?"
"You don't think a little thing like that would stop Otto Weiss and company, do you? Haven't I told you that the Germans are very efficient?"

"Go and tell your husband it's one of the most extraordinary things I've heard of since the war started."

"Extraordinary, but true. The girl did have the plans but she got the wind up—and who can wonder at it after what she went through in Germany?"—he popped them into a bundle at last.

"Good God!"
"It's all right, B.—I wired Y.38 and he's on his way here now."

"With the plans?"

"Of course, you old fathead! Can I get this in a jiffy?"

"Bellamy growled assent. He didn't care for authority to be taken out of his hands."

"I forgot to tell you that I read the Countess of Miltenden—what a hag!—quite a lecture on moral behaviour. Or should I say immoral behaviour? Thanks to your staff work, she accepted me without quibble as the new butler—and so liked my manly beauty, it seems, that she invited me to share her bed the very first night! I told her that in my capacity as a super-official of the Gestapo, a kind of travelling superintendent, that I had to keep my Aryan ideals unsullied. That was why I was able to prevent her from spilling the beans to Otto Weiss when he called."

"How did you manage to convince her about that?"
"Well, I flashed—a—col—and—pretended it was a Gestapo badge; I spoke German; I was very rude and I 'helled' Hitler. I tell you she swayed round it while."

"I left her thinking hard. You see, I recited from memory that passage from Dr. Hermann Hauschka's book, 'Hitler Speaks'—you know the one; it runs like this:

"I am having a comprehensive card index compiled of every influential persons in the world. The cards contain every detail of importance. Will he take money? Can he be bought in any other way? Is he vain? Is he glib? Is he a woman? Is he homosexual? That is of the utmost value, because it provides close associations that can never be escaped from. Has he anything in his past to conceal? Can he be subjected to pressure? It is on the strength of these reports that I choose my men. That really is politics."

"And I told her what applied to men, applies with equal force to women," Tiger wound up. "She admitted then that she had been forced to give cellar-room to the captive Bianca."

"And what did you say?"
"I said: 'Thank you, slut! You should have seen her face—that is, if you're call it a face!'"

On Saturday in the "Telegraph" there will be another Sidney Horler story, continuing the series, "Tiger Standish On The Warpath."

WOMEN GOLFERS COLLECT \$55 FOR BOMBER FUND

THE V.A.D. and A.N.S. Tombstone Competition played over the New Course, Fanning, on Tuesday, December 17, for a prize presented by Mrs. A. V. Greaves, resulted in a win for Miss V. Fleming (A.N.S.) who was just short of the 18th green.

Other good results were—Mrs. Eldon Potter, Mrs. Shirley and Mrs. Turnbull, all ending on the 18th green. There were 30 entries.

Mrs. E. A. Macintosh and Miss E. M. Whitehead tied for the Putting Prize with a score of 19. Mrs. Macintosh winning on the play off. The sum of \$55.00 was collected for the South China Morning Post Bomber Fund, being made up of contributions from those taking part in the Tombstone and Putting Competitions, as well as table money from the bridge tables.



"A Fuzzy Tongue?...Hurray!... now I can have some Castoria!"



You don't have to coax this little lady to take a laxative—if that laxative is Castoria. She loves its pleasant taste—one of the important reasons why Castoria is the right laxative for children.

Another reason is that Castoria is mild and safe, is made especially for a child's delicate system. It never gripes, is not habit-forming, and is actually settling to delicate stomachs. Its action is thorough, unfailing, but very gentle.

Buy a bottle of safe, dependable Castoria today.

Economical. 12 doses or more in each bottle. Use as needed. It keeps.

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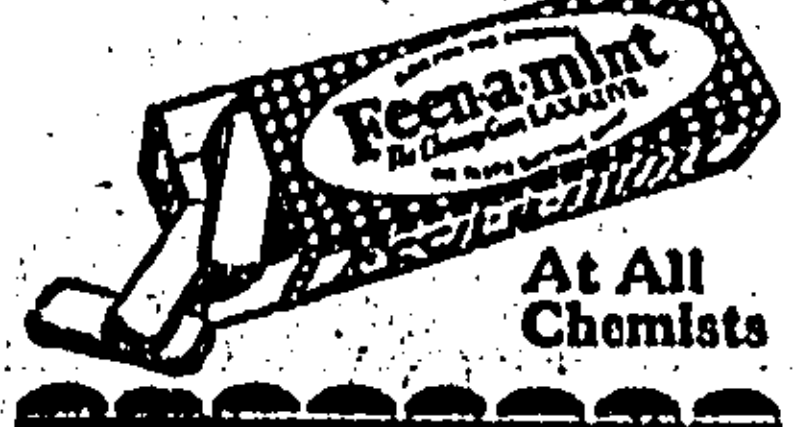
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FOR CONSTIPATION



INVASION PORTS ATTACKED

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH" LONDON, Dec. 17 (UP).—Heavy explosions from the direction of the French coast shook the Dover area at 2 o'clock this afternoon. They are believed to have been caused by a daylight raid by the R.A.F. on the invasion ports. The explosions rumbled continuously and bright red flashes were seen through the sea mist.

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v.

KOWLOON POLICE

Entrance Fee: 50 cents

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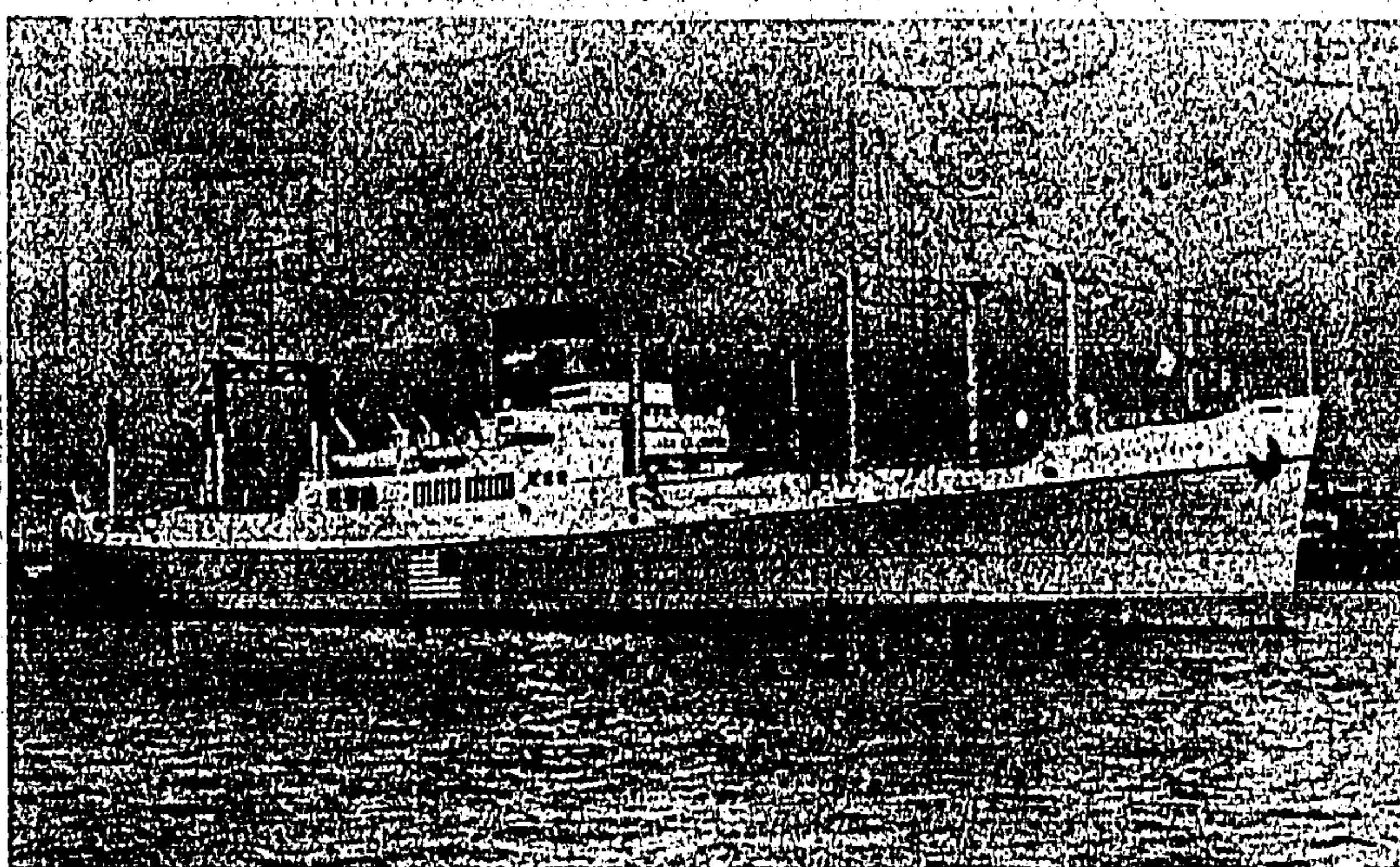
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NEW AMERICAN ROUND-THE-WORLD LINER



Striking study of the President Jackson, new round-the-world 9,300-ton American President Lines vessel, which visited Hongkong on Sunday. She is on her maiden voyage. The liner which has accommodation for 100 passengers, boasts several notable features in modern shipbuilding design.

Beaverbrook Warns Britain Of New Nazi Invasion Plans

Special to the "Telegraph"

LONDON, Dec. 17 (UP).—Lord Beaverbrook, Minister of Aircraft Production, in a broadcast to-day warned that the "enemy is making preparations for an invasion of Britain even before spring."

He said that invasion would be made by land and sea, but principally by air.

He predicted that Britain would receive 20,000 planes from the United States during 1942 when, he declared, the famous 3,000 per month plan will be realized.

Lord Beaverbrook revealed that American planes are coming to Britain in increasing flow.

"Very many of them are fine types of fighting planes of excellent quality. Some of them are equal to the best we produce here. For example, there is the Curtiss P-40. It is good for a straight war job. It flies easily and the engine is reliable. In performance and speed, it is the equivalent of the Spitfire, which I think is very good."

Lord Beaverbrook revealed that a new type of fighter plane, the "Whirlwind," has been successfully used.

He said that the output of aircraft and engines in Britain from August to November inclusive was double that of last year, despite the bombings.

Three-Legged Stool

According to "Reuter," Lord Beaverbrook declared that Hitler is conspiring to dominate Europe. He sits on a three-legged stool comprising air, sea and land forces. The German newspapers daily disclose signs of the immense attempt Hitler is making to bring out a huge air force in the spring. These are sure and certain signs of a feverish development in production.

We Shall Overcome

We shall meet and overcome the danger by industry, enterprise, endurance and fortitude. It will be a hard struggle but the builders of aircraft have had difficult tasks before. All the machines we lost during the four months in which the battle raged over Britain have been fully paid for by public contributions.

It is now a contest between the industrial forces of Britain and the resources and strength of the combined nations of Europe's conquerors and conquered. Against them the British work doggedly and willingly with the certainty that we shall destroy the enemy by our labours.

London Disturbed

TOPEKA, Kansas, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—Mr. Alfred Landon, Republican Candidate for Presidency in 1936, declared on his return here from a visit to Washington that he had been advised "by reliable official sources" that Hitler was planning to invade Britain about the middle of February.

Mr. Landon said that he had found a "definitely disturbed" feeling in administration circles over the failure to co-ordinate American defence activities.

22 Prisoners Escape From Devil's Island

Twenty-two convicts from Devil's Island arrived at the Island of Vieques, off Puerto Rico recently, as reports reached San Juan that the French colony is demoralized and numerous prisoners are escaping.

The colony is reported to be short of food and medicine and vigilance has been relaxed. Numerous Devil's Island prisoners are roaming the Caribbean Sea in improved boats.

7-HOUR RAID ON NAZI TOWNS

Destructive Work By R.A.F.

Special to the "Telegraph"

LONDON, Dec. 17 (UP).—The Air Ministry announced this evening that long-range British bombers for seven hours last night, made raids on Mannheim and Ludwigshafen, which is a suburb of Mannheim, where an aniline dye factory, one of the largest in Germany, was set afire.

Bombs were also dropped on the railway yards at the port of Mannheim and along the banks of the Rhine.

Whole Area Ablaze

"A particularly heavy explosion was observed at Neckarsulm, another suburb of Mannheim. By 3.30 a.m. the whole target area was a mass of flames."

"The town of Speyer, south of Mannheim was attacked, and aircraft factory buildings were hit."

"Other planes dropped heavy bombs on the submarine base at Bordeaux."

"The R.A.F. attacked several aerodromes during daylight yesterday and also hit six merchant vessels off the French coast. After the attack, one vessel was observed to be listing to port and another was set afire."

"Four of our aircraft are missing."

Nazis Confess To Raids

BERLIN, Dec. 17 (UP).—It is officially announced that in the R.A.F. raids on Mannheim and elsewhere last night, ten civilians were killed and 50 wounded.

Nazis Absent

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

LONDON, Dec. 17 (UP).—The whole of Britain has been without air raid since nightfall and there were no bombs dropped during the day.

It is believed that the R.A.F. is attacking the invasion ports as a number of heavy explosions have been heard from the French side of the Channel.

\$3,000,000 For H.K. Air Raid Shelters

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council will, at its meeting to-morrow, be asked to approve of supplementary expenditure amounting to \$3,258,557.

Of this \$3,000,000 is earmarked for A.R.P. tunnelling and other civil defence work.

It is explained that it has been decided to put in hand certain measures, such as the construction of tunnels, concrete pens, etc., for the protection of the civil population against air attack, and a sum of \$1,000,000 has already been voted for this purpose in a previous Finance Measure.

The Finance Committee has also agreed informally to the appropriation of further \$2,000,000 before the end of the current financial year and

Vichy Talks Last 3 Hours Laval Is Released

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

BERLIN, Dec. 17 (UP).—The official German news agency's correspondent at Vichy reports that M. Laval participated during the last half hour of the conversations between Marshal Petain and Herr Otto Abetz.

The talks lasted for more than three hours, after which Marshal Petain had luncheon with Herr Abetz.

"Vichy, Dec. 17 (UP).—It is officially announced that Marshal Petain received M. Laval at 8.20 a.m. and discussed the general situation. At the request of Herr Abetz, M. Laval is no longer being detained by the officials."

Abetz Leaves

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

VICHY, Dec. 17 (UP).—Herr Otto Abetz and his party left Vichy at 9.30 p.m. and proceeded to Paris by automobile accompanied as far as the boundary by General Laure, Aide to Marshal Petain.

Berlin Interest

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

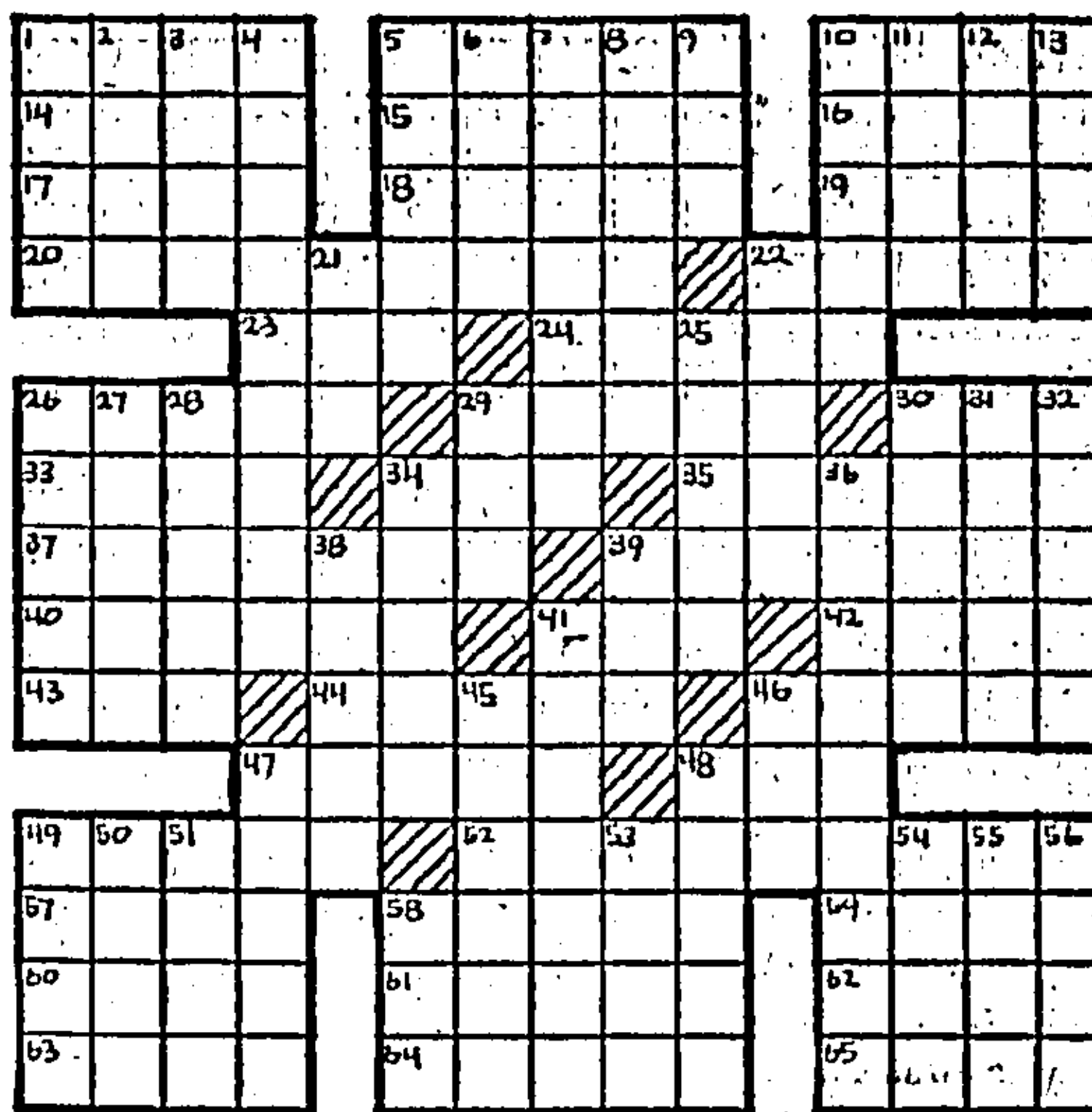
BERLIN, Dec. 17 (UP).—With official quarters silent, foreign diplomatic and German political circles have evidenced the greatest interest over the "Laval case" which, it is believed here, has "entered a decisive phase."

Crossword Puzzle

By LARS HOBBS

ACROSS
1—Fall into water suddenly
2—Insult—prize of war
3—Short poem
4—May happen
5—More devoid of education
6—Respiratory sound
7—Short poem
8—Set in order
9—Daily language
10—Troubled
11—Crippled
12—Cured worm
13—Chase
14—Poison melted out
15—Roman
16—Distance—hail
17—Shape of doughnut
18—Abigail's concession
19—A weight
20—Unlabeled
21—Quantity operated on mathematically
22—Clergyman
23—Tended
24—Dance step
25—Protest
26—Plural—mudst things
27—That
28—Used again
29—Abrasive material
30—Quarry at Naples
31—City in northern Italy
32—Item upward
33—Envy
34—Pained
35—In a row (poetic)

DOWN
1—Rings man's
2—Pair of sandals
3—Head
4—Observe carefully
5—Took on
6—In addition to
7—Unsettled all at vegetation
8—Custom
9—Depart
10—Felt
11—Took without
12—Permit
13—One who has residence
14—Open house
15—In addition to
16—Kind of beer
17—Foot
18—One who terminates
19—Girl rid of
20—Rackling of rears
21—Foot
22—Cooked in water as
23—This one follows
24—Verb
25—Vegetable used to
26—Miser's stand
27—Friend
28—Stirred with water
29—Fourth dimension
30—Part of eye
31—Vine
32—Rough sea
33—Sound of bell
34—Fruit
35—Constellation—the "Aster"



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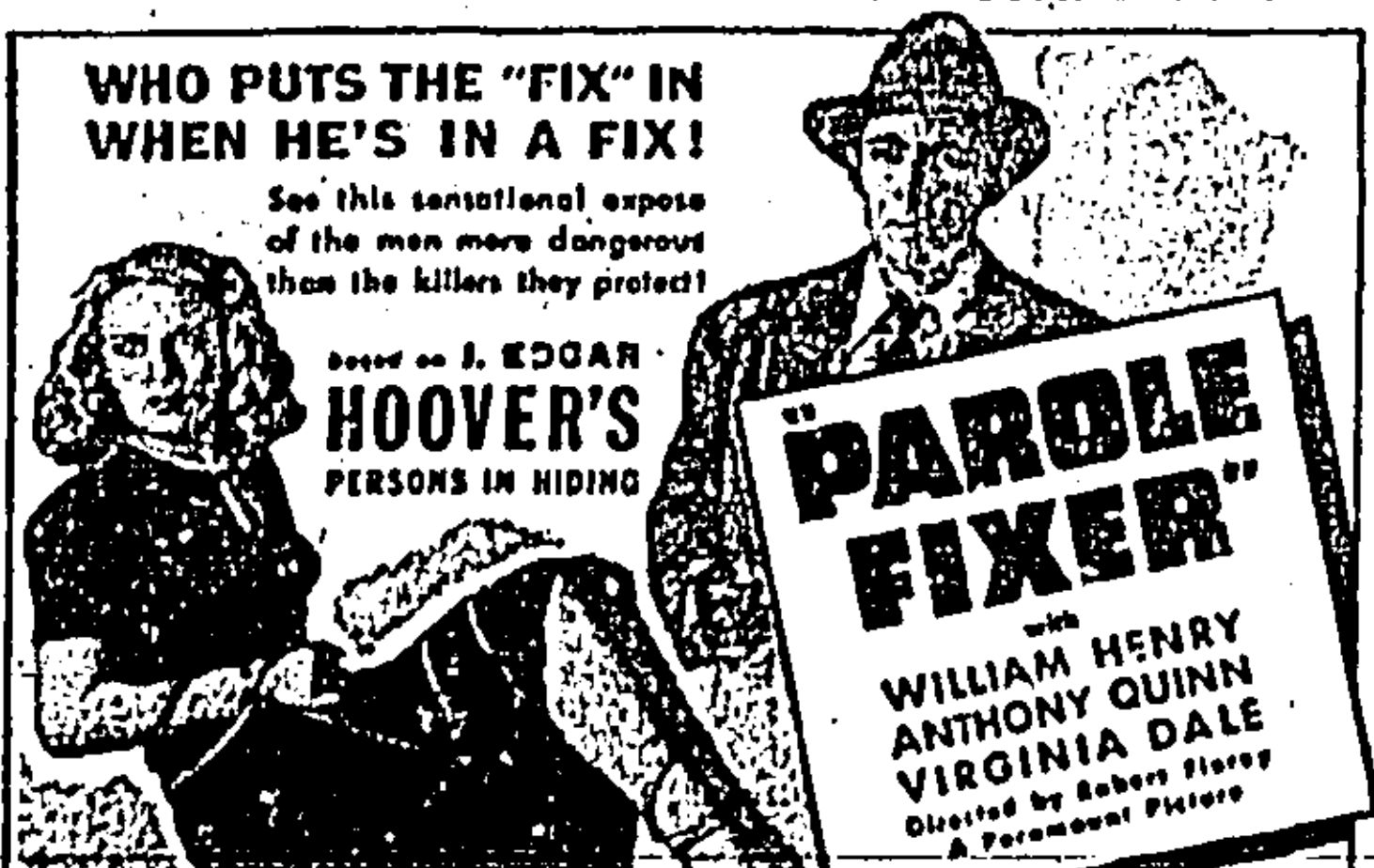
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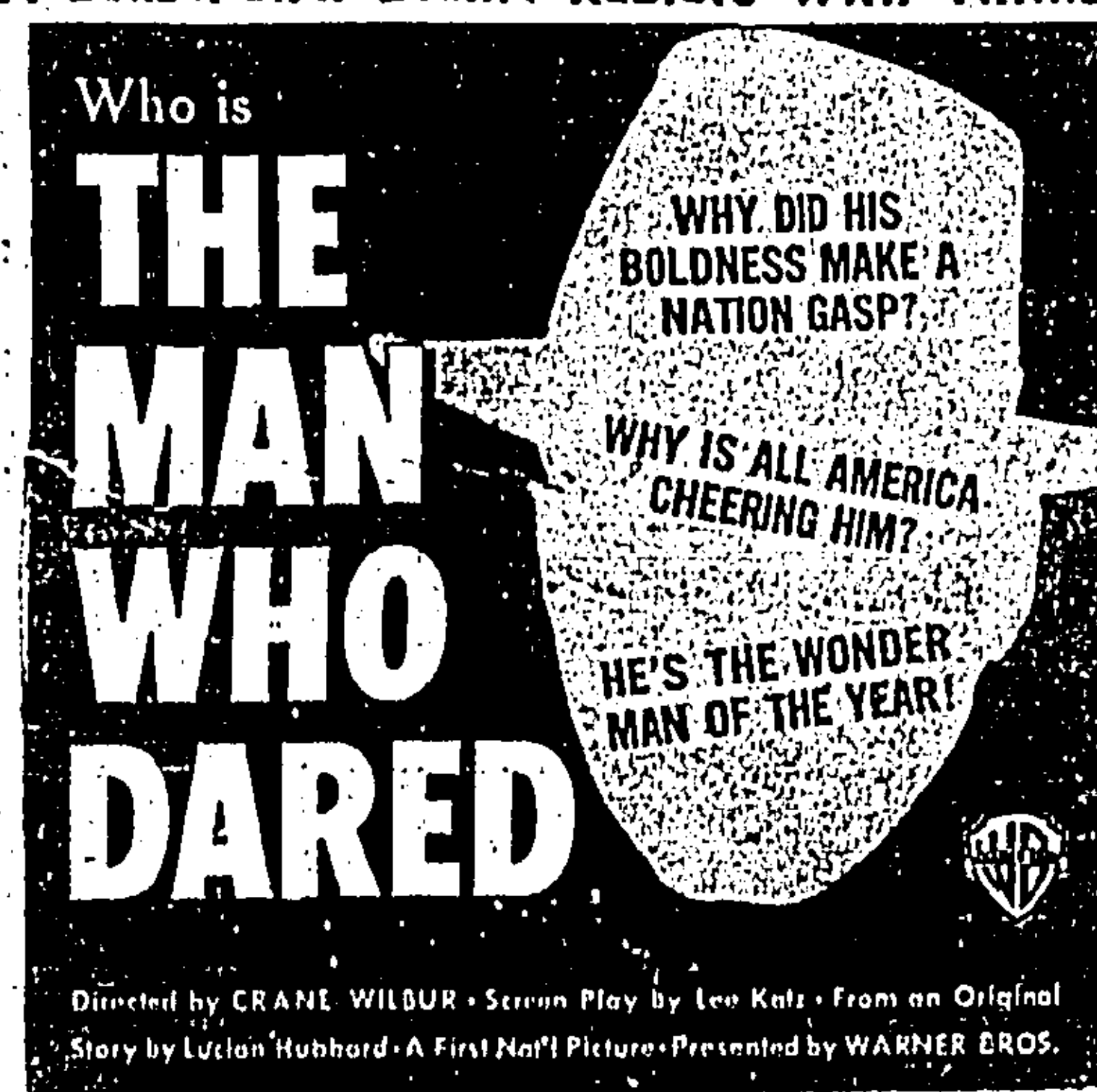
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Greeks Drive Toward Valona: Vuna Taken

→ FROM PAGE ONE

server in Greece, has just completed an extensive tour of the front and reports that the secret of the Greek success is due to two main factors:
(1) They give the Italians no rest;
(2) If they do meet with strong resistance, the Greeks split up into small bodies which converge on the Italians from different points, throwing them into panic.

Klisura On Fire
ATHENS, Dec. 17 (UP).—The War Ministry announced to-day that fires have been observed at Klisura upon which the Greeks are advancing. Heavy losses are being inflicted on the Italians.

Port Palermo Recaptured?
ATHENS, Dec. 17 (UP).—There were indications here this evening that the Italians had recaptured Port Palermo. The official Greek spokesman denied it is in Greek hands, and said that the Greek again have the Gulf of Porto Palermo under artillery fire. He also referred to the heavy Italian resistance in the coastal sector.

New Positions Taken
SOFIA, Dec. 17 (UP).—Radio Athens said to-night that despite bad weather, due to snow storms, Greek troops have advanced and have captured new positions of great strategic importance, including a mountain village which the Italians had made terrific efforts to hold.

The Italians suffered heavy losses and during the struggle the commander of the 34th Italian Regiment was killed.

On the Chimara front, the Italians suffered tremendous losses.

British bombers made another raid on Durazzo and many fires were observed by the crews of the planes.

Through Snow Drifts
SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"
POGRADETZ, Dec. 17 (UP).—Greek troops are advancing in this sector despite the snow in the mountain trails which is 30 feet deep in some spots.

LATE NEWS

Roosevelt's Plan To Lease Arms

→ FROM PAGE ONE

replied in the negative. Such a plan would be in the best interests of the United States because it would promote the creation of additional defence facilities and would also help to defend Britain.

The President again emphasized that the plan would be applied to future British orders and said he believed that the British possess sufficient exchange for the purchase of the orders now already placed.

When asked regarding Mr. Hull's assertion that the first half of 1941 would be crucial for Britain, he said that the Administration's programme for speeding up defence production to keep everlastingly at it and to push the people—he disclosed that two or three cases are now under investigation to determine whether or not it will be necessary for the Government to take over plants which refuse to co-operate with the defence programme.

American Ships
When asked whether or not any merchant vessels, built with American money, would be loaned to Britain under the American flag, the President said that it is not necessarily so; vessels might even fly the Bolivian flag. It was not necessary to send vessels under the American flag or having American crews into the war zone.

Current tentative plans, said the President, envisaged that they were not final, did not contemplate the taking over of all future British orders in America but they did call for the completion of a large number of orders with American funds.

No Unlimited Emergency

President Roosevelt said that he did not visualize anything in the present situation to require his extension of the current limited national emergency to a proclamation of an unlimited emergency.

The great question was whether or not it would speed up the production of armaments.

Discussing Mr. William Knudsen's recent comments about the industry, he said that no general rule was possible regarding a seven day week or 24-hour daily operation of the factories but it may be necessary for certain skilled labour to work overtime at time-and-a-half pay.

Legal Details

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—President Roosevelt said that the plan was still being studied from the legal viewpoint. Whether title to planes, guns and ships which might be sent to Britain under the plan would remain with the United States or would be vested with the British was a legal problem, but the President indicated that this was a mere detail incidental to the main intention to assure Britain of a continual flow of supplies.

The President made clear that the whole matter would be handled on the basis that it was necessary to assist the British in the war as a means of protecting the United States.

Referring to the question of speeding up domestic production, the President said that British orders were good means of obtaining the necessary expansion.

Neutrality Not Affected

While legislation would undoubtedly be necessary, President Roosevelt said that his plan, which was described as the "latest phase of the programme to give England all aid short of war," would not repeat the Neutrality Act.

Declaring that he had read a "great deal of nonsense" recently about financial aid to Britain, President Roosevelt said that within the memory of man, no money had ever been won or lost through lack of money. He criticised the idea that money in the bank was necessary to win this war. The President described as narrow-minded the view that the only way to assist Britain was to repeal laws so that money could be lent to Britain to spend in the United States. He said that outright cash gifts might come but he was not at all sure that they were necessary.

Orders Are Asst
The President said that orders from Britain were a tremendous asset because they resulted in creating additional facilities for factories, munition works and shipyards.

He added that the new plan had been under consideration for three or four weeks and that it was one of several that might be devised. Because British orders were essentially for the same kind of munitions as

Financial Aid Is Necessary

→ FROM PAGE ONE

would not extend loans or credits unless Congress modified or repealed the Johnson Act. He left his hearers with the impression that such a decision was entirely up to Congress. Mr. Morgenthau is reported to have made a factual analysis of Britain's needs without, however, making any recommendations.

Crisis In Spring

Concurrently came a report that Mr. Cordell Hull, the Secretary of State, has told members of the United States Defence Commission and other Government officials that Britain would probably face a serious crisis in the spring unless the present delivery schedules of United States war supplies were considerably increased.

He is understood to have urged all speed possible in producing planes and other supplies.

At the same time it is learned that the shipping situation is being examined to determine whether additional merchantmen might be available for sending supplies to Britain.

Suggestions Made

The "Washington Post," in a double-column leader under the heading "Call To Action," declares that all the President's vast reserves of vitality will be drawn upon to cope with the problems of national defence.

Turning to the question of financial aid, the paper suggests that apart from repealing the Johnson Act, there are many ways of assisting, including paying more than market value for raw materials from the Empire, buying consumer interest in sources of those materials, and buying an equity interest in British oil and other holdings in the Western Hemisphere.

Transfer U.S.N. Units

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"
NORMAN, Okla., Dec. 17 (UP).—Senator Josh Lee to-day said that he was in favour of the next Congress transferring a portion of the United States fleet to Britain, "because Germany is capturing, economically and morally at war with this country."

He said that the people should allow American Admirals to decide what portion of the navy could be placed under the British flag.

Japanese Fears

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"
TOKYO, Dec. 18 (UP).—The "Hochi Shimbun," commenting on Representative Sol Bloom's proposal for a repeal of the Neutrality Act said that such an action would signify virtual American participation in the European war and would have, indirectly, a far-reaching effect on Sino-Japanese hostilities. Therefore, Japan must watch every American move.

BARDIA BLASTED

→ FROM PAGE ONE

the dock areas. Again British air craft returned safely.

East Africa

CAIRO, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—Gura and Asmara, in Italian East Africa, were raided during the night of December 15, says the R.A.F. Headquarters.

At the former place, a large fire was started. Enemy fighters damaged one R.A.F. bomber, which, however, managed to return to British territory.

At Asmara, a factory and transport park were bombed.

Enemy bombers raided Port Sudan four times but no damage was caused either to R.A.F. property or to personnel.

Northern Kenya

LONDON, Dec. 17 (Reuter).—In Northern Kenya, the end of the rainy season has enabled us to resume offensive patrolling on a considerable scale.

In the Sudan, the position is unchanged.

Used by American forces, it was possible to convert them into American orders. The President said "we have enough money for that."

It is expressed the belief that Britain will be able to pay for the orders already given in the United States and the new arrangements need apply only to future contracts.

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TO-MORROW "THE EX-MRS. BRADFORD" Joan Arthur William Powell

FRI. SAT. "MEXICAN SPITFIRE" with Lupo Volox

"SPOILS OF CONQUEST" March of Time

More Libyan Forts Captured

→ FROM PAGE ONE

while lorry loads of stores and ammunition bring up the rear. "Rush" tactics were employed in the British attack on three frontier forts, where capture was announced in to-day's British communiqué.

Unlagging Advance

British advanced mechanised units are continuing to advance towards Bardia with unlagging speed. Behind them and trying to keep up with them is a continuous stream of infantry, many riding in captured lorries and trucks.

Free French forces, which are right in the front line, are giving valuable support to the Imperial troops. They showed great courage and dash in the final onslaught against Sollum.

Although French Army tactics are very different from the British, months of hard training have produced a splendid fighting unit. They are working in excellently with their British comrades.

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